



Minutes of the Regular Meeting October 21, 2024

*The County of Brant Public Library cultivates inclusivity
and empowers lifelong learning.*

Date: October 21, 2024

Place: Glen Morris Branch

Present: Nathan Etherington, Mike Gatopoulos, Fred Gladding, Steve Howes, Jennifer Kyle, Kari Raymer Bishop, Marilyn Sewell

Regrets: Paula Chorpitta, Amanda Henderson

Staff: Kelly Bernstein, Steph Burchill

Call to Order: F. Gladding, in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: M. Gatopoulos

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature of

None

New Main Branch Update

Guests: Alison Newton, CAO, County of Brant (not present, no report given.)

Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: J. Kyle

Seconded by: M. Sewell

THAT the minutes of the September 25, 2024, Regular Meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

Business Arising

K. Bernstein shared New Main Branch updates. The project tender had been released with a closing date of October 26th. The analyzed results will be presented to the Administrative and Operations Committee on December 10 and to Council for ratification on December 17th. This plan follows the normal council cycle for capital projects. F. Gladding would like to remind potential delegations to Council to adhere to the library's ethical practice of welcoming differing opinions. The Board would like to better understand how recent changes to the Development Charge By-Law might affect the new library's funding and instructed K. Bernstein to contact Finance Department staff regarding potential ramifications for New Build. An application to the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings fund has been submitted.

Consent Items to be Received – Communications

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: J. Kyle

THAT the October Safety Talk, JHSC Minutes: September 2024 be received.

Carried

Library Board Development

Upon a suggestion from S. Howes, the Board considered and analyzed potential objections to the New Build.

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: M. Gatopoulos

THAT the Board directs K. Bernstein to prepare a report for the November regular meeting re: comparators of a greenfield build vs. the existing project.

Carried

Submissions for Board Development

F. Gladding reminded Board Members that suggestions for Board Development are encouraged and should be submitted to the Chair or CEO for inclusion in the agenda.

Reports

K. Bernstein reported on output measures and financials for September 2024. Circulation of materials continues to grow, most noticeably in the Juvenile Fiction and Young Adult areas. An increase in visitors to the Branches is reflected in the increased wi-fi usage. A decrease in Children's Programming numbers is due to partnership programs not running. Adult Program numbers continue to rise. Online traffic results are being investigated. Spending to date is normal and within budget. A small surplus at year-end is anticipated.

Staff Development day was a success with the Dementiabilty and Collection Marketing trainings being especially well received.

The 2024-2025 Public Library Operating Grant application has been submitted.

Something for Everyone highlighted a recent author visit by Shari Lapena. The event sold out and was enjoyed by the audience.

K. Bernstein reported updates on behalf of the Facility Committee.

Moved by: J. Kyle

Seconded by: M. Gatopoulos

THAT the reports be received as presented.

Carried

Moved by: M. Gatopoulos

Seconded by: J. Kyle

THAT the Personnel Policy 1.3 Criminal Record Check, Personnel Policy 1.4 Holiday Closures, and the CEO Performance Evaluation draft policies be approved as presented.

Carried

New Business

K. Bernstein presented suggested 2025 Board Meeting Dates and Locations, a draft 2025 Policy Review Schedule, and the 2023 Ontario Public Library Statistics & Rankings report.

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: J. Kyle

THAT the 2025 Library Board Meeting Dates and Suggested Locations, 2025 Policy Review Schedule, and the 2023 Ontario Public Library Statistics & Rankings Report be approved as presented.

K. Bernstein presented the Draft 2025 Operating Budget. The larger than usual increase is primarily due to Job Evaluation adjustments. Smaller increases to areas such as hardware and software, and professional services are requested to meet inflationary increases.

Moved by: M. Sewell

Seconded by: M. Gatopoulos

THAT the Draft 2025 Operating Budget be approved as presented

Carried

N. Etherington shared details about a current OLBA petition, the Save our School Libraries campaign.

F. Gladding shared that Board Member M. Gatopoulos has been hired as a volunteer firefighter. As municipal employees may not serve on local boards, the member will resign his seat once his paid employment begins. The CEO will notify the Clerk about the upcoming vacancy once the date becomes known. F. Gladding expressed appreciation for M. Gatopoulos' time and effort on the Board.

Council Updates

J. Kyle and S. Howes shared news and information from Council with the Board.

Next Meeting

Thursday November 28, 2024, 7pm at the Paris Branch.

Adjournment

M. Gatopoulos moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:20pm.

Meeting adjourned.