

Waterloo Public Library

Regular Meeting of the Board

Board Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2016

Waterloo Public Library – Board Meeting Minutes – 27/01/2016

Board Members Attending: Ms. Karen Scian (Chair); Ms. S.S. Ahmad; Ms. Alison DeMuy; Ms. Helen Kaluzny; Mr. John Strong; Ms. Jude Doble (Vice Chair); Ms. Rachel Harder

Regrets: Councillor Angela Vieth; Mr. Ian Gilchrist

Staff: Ms. Laurie Clarke (CEO); Ms. Liana Jupan (Manager, Finance & Facilities)

1. Call to order:

Ms. Scian, Chair, called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of the agenda

Moved by J. Doble and seconded by S.S. Ahmad that the agenda be approved.

Motion carried.

3. Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the nature thereof

None.

4. Approval of the minutes of the December 16, 2015 meeting

Moved by R. Harder, seconded by J. Strong, that the minutes of the December 16, 2015 meeting be approved as amended.

Motion carried.

5. Business arising from the minutes.

None.

6. Chair Report – K. Scian (verbal)

- Chair Scian reported that Ms. Clarke presented the Library's business plan to Council on January 19th. Although the Library was asked to follow the same template as the City's, Ms. Clarke was able to highlight the Library's strategic plan objectives, and also some of the results.
- Questions were fielded from the Councillors on why the hours at the John M. Harper Branch were cut, including Fridays and Sundays. Ms. Clarke explained that the funding agreement with the City was for 48 hours of service at this branch. Understandably there was high demand from the public for more hours, and the Library worked very hard to make this happen. However, without increased funding for the operations of the branch, it was no longer sustainable
- Council questioned why Fridays and Sundays were chosen, and Ms. Clarke explained that Fridays were chosen as they are a short day – a 7.5 hour per day, as opposed to the weekday opening hours of 11 hours per day. Additionally, no programming was offered on Fridays, while there is a full programming schedule during the week. And finally, the McCormick

Branch is open on Fridays, so library service is available nearby. Sunday openings include only 3 hours, so again, Sundays chosen to decrease the impact on the public.

- Clarification was asked on whether the proposed library funding agreement was based on the 50th percentile, which it is.
- An inquiry was made on why the estimate for operating the proposed East Branch was 1 million dollars. Ms. Clarke replied that this represents the cost if the new branch if it was identical to the John M. Harper Branch. Ms. Clarke confirmed that there was no decision that this would be the model, but that she was asked for an estimate, which was then based on the current branch operation. She reiterated that the Library is very open to an innovative and creative library model that would keep the needed operating funds sustainable.
- Ms. Clarke was asked what funds were available for refurbishing the Main Library, and replied that no funds were set aside by the City in the forecasted Capital budget.
- In respect to the request for additional funding for the library made by the Board Chair a few weeks earlier, it was asked what next steps were. Ms. Clarke replied that she assumed that Council would need a motion to consider the requested increase of \$300,000 funding which was in addition to the funding outlined in the Funding agreement.

7. Council Report – Councillor Vieth

None.

8. Delegations

None.

9. Correspondence

None.

10. Decision Items

None.

11. Information Items

11.1 CEO Report – L. Clarke CEO (verbal)

- WPL was invited to be a member of the Positive Parenting Committee. This is a large committee that promotes positive parenting practices Region wide. A number of community agencies sit at the table: KW Counselling, both School Boards, Ontario Early Years Centers, Our Place Resource Center, Salvation Army, Better Beginnings North Waterloo, Monica Place, Family and Children’s Services, Region of Waterloo Public Health, Project READ Literacy Network, a member of the Belonging Steering

Group etc. Many of our initiatives are aligned with their mandate, and we are able to assist in offering access to parents.

- Some programming updates - WPL will be participating in the new Irish Festival taking place in March, with an Irish story time; Open Family Creation Space for Winterloo at the Main Library; During the summer we hope to do Pop-up programming at RIM Park as part of our You Belong Here program, and also to reach out to the East side community.
- The closure of King St. from Erb to William may cause problems with customers accessing the library, and there is concern it will affect our use. Staff are investigating ways to encourage customers to persevere.
- Our annual Toasty Toes sock drive will take place in February. This year a M2We Group at Mary Johnston School is pledging to match the number of pairs of socks donated to the library. The Investor's Group, Martin Chiropractic and a group from the Research Technology Park are also collecting socks for us. Last year we collected 700 pairs.
- WPL is also collecting donations of new diapers for the Syrian refugees which will be delivered to the Muslim Association of Canada who have assumed responsibilities for the donations dedicated to the Syrian refugees
- Our website redesign project is being worked on with INTENT along with a staff committee consisting of various backgrounds and experiences headed up by Sandi Hall, our Communications Specialist.
- Ms. Clarke participated in Open City Hall sessions at both the Mayor's Levee and at the John M. Harper Branch, and witnessed strong support for the library. On February 1st Ms. Clarke presented WPL's Capital Budget to Council. Budget Day for both operating and capital budgets is February 8, 2016

12. Committee Reports

None.

13. Other Business

Moved by H. Kaluzny, seconded by J. Doble, that WPL join the coalition of "Canadian Public Libraries for Fair eBook Pricing", which advocate for fair pricing models for eBooks.

<http://www.fairpricingforlibraries.org/>

Motion carried.

14. Date of next regular meeting

Wednesday February 24, 2016 at 5:00pm at the Main Library.

15. Adjournment

Moved by J. Strong, seconded by S.S Ahmad

Motion carried.