

Waterloo Public Library

Regular Meeting of the Board

Board Meeting Minutes

November 25, 2015

Waterloo Public Library – Board Meeting Minutes – 25/11/2015

Board Members Attending: Ms. Karen Scian (Chair); Ms. Jude Doble (Vice Chair); Ms. Alison DeMuy; Mr. Ian Gilchrist; Ms. Rachel Harder; Ms. Helen Kaluzny; Mr. John Strong; Councillor Angela Vieth

Regrets: None

Staff: Ms. Laurie Clarke (CEO); Ms. Gloria Van Eek-Meijers (Deputy CEO)

1. Call to order:

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

2. Approval of the agenda

Moved by J. Doble and seconded by I. Gilchrist that the agenda be approved.

Motion carried.

3. Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the nature thereof

None.

4. Approval of the minutes of the October 28, 2015 meeting

Moved by I. Gilchrist, seconded by J. Strong, that the minutes of the October 28, 2015 meeting be approved.

Motion carried.

5. Business arising from the minutes.

None.

6. Chair Report – K. Scian (verbal)

At the City of Waterloo Council Meeting on Monday, October 16, 2 p.m., Ms. Scian, with Ms. Clarke in attendance, outlined the fiscal challenges preventing the library from putting forth a balanced 2016 budget and she described restraint initiatives already undertaken by the library to mitigate costs

The goal of the presentation was to initiate a conversation about sustainable funding with Council, as we move towards a new funding agreement. In addition, the Board wished to provide them with advanced notice of a significant service cut at the library: Effective January 1st 2016, operating hours at the John M Harper branch will be rolled back to the originally funded 48 hours/week. The library will be closed on Fridays and Sundays. Ms. Scian also informed Council that the Library Board has grave concerns about the city's east side expansion plans, in the absence of sustainable funding for the public library system.

At the Council meeting, Council approved a one year extension of the current funding agreement and a commitment to discuss library sustainability in 2016. This extension leaves the library in a deficit position for 2016, but it is hoped that the extension will lead to a new multi-year funding agreement with increased funding beyond what is in the current agreement. Ms. Scian will continue talking to Mayor Dave Jaworsky and City Councillors and Ms. Clarke will continue working with the City Administration Team. The City will release the recommended budget to the Councillors and the public, on December 14th and Council will vote on the Budget on February 8, 2016.

7. Council Report – Councillor Vieth

Councillor Vieth reported on the Province of Ontario’s Cultural Strategy and the call for feedback on their discussion paper “Telling our Stories, Growing our Economy: Developing a Culture Strategy for Ontario”. The City is formulating a response that includes three important areas, one of which talks about fostering an environment in which arts, cultural industries, cultural heritage and public libraries can thrive in communities through partnerships. Ms. Clarke mentioned that public library and other library advocacy groups such as FOPL and CULC are also working on responses.

8. Delegations

None.

9. Correspondence

None.

10. Decision Items

None.

11. Information Items

11.1 CEO Report – L. Clarke CEO (verbal)

After an analysis of eLearning products on the market, the library has decided to purchase Gale Courses. Gale Courses offers a wide range of highly interactive, instructor led courses that WPL library card holders can take online for free.

Ms. Clarke reminded Board members to let her know by November 30th whether they are interested in attending the **OLA Superconference** which will be held on January 27 – 30, 2016 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

12. Committee Reports

12.1 Fundraising & Outreach – I. Gilchrist (verbal)

After Hours @ the Library was a huge success. Mr. Gilchrist expressed thanks and appreciation to everyone involved including the Fundraising Committee members, food vendors, the many business and individuals who donated prizes, Ms. Clarke, Ms. Sandi Hall and all other library staff and volunteers. There will be a full review of fundraiser at the next Fundraising & Outreach Committee meeting after which Mr. Gilchrist will be able to report on attendance and money raised.

12.2 SOLS – H. Kaluzny (verbal)

Ms. Kaluzny attended the SOLS Trustees Council Meeting held on Saturday November 7, 2015 in Angus, Ontario. Discussion items included the escalating cost of e-books and lobbying efforts of FOPL and some of the larger public libraries to contain these costs. Ms. Kaluzny distributed an article from the Ottawa Citizen (October 9, 2015) "Ottawa Public Library fights the high price of e-books". Other items discussed was an ongoing review of SOLS's Interlibrary Loan service and Brampton Public Library's participation in "Project Outcome: Measuring the True Impact of Public Libraries" – a pilot project with funding received from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

13. Date of next regular meeting

Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 5:00pm at the Main Library.

14. Adjournment

Moved by J. Strong, seconded by I. Gilchrist to adjourn.

Motion carried.