

## Minutes of the May 30, 2024 Library Board meeting

### Attendance

#### Board members

- H. Allan
- R. Bouchard
- D. Brown (via Webex)
- B. Harvey
- A. Hazfi
- R. Jamal
- E. Luptakova
- P. Somji
- Z. Spenta

#### Staff members

- D. Hutchison Koep, Chief Librarian
- M. Liddle, Manager of Operations
- S. Tarcea, Manager of Public Services
- A. Diamond, Recording Secretary

#### Regrets

- T. Valente

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The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m., and opened with a territorial acknowledgement by Trustee P. Somji. The opening circle was facilitated by Trustee Z. Spenta.

### Presentations

#### 3. Strategic planning: Staff report on community health

Shideh Taleban, Library Services Coordinator for Community, Learning and Access Services presented her team's report on mental health, homelessness, poverty, social connection and loneliness based on what we see in the Library.

Trustees asked how frequently library staff need to deal with a significant incident or person in crisis, and staff estimated 1-2 times per week.

There was discussion about perceived competition for funding and resources with other community-based organizations. There may also be a perceived duplication of services. Staff clarified that there can be barriers to accessing services in other organizations (i.e. immigration status, etc.). The library is a familiar and low barrier space and can act as a hub where staff connect customers with partner organizations to help with their needs. A challenge is that need is outpacing the capacity of services in the community.

The Chief Librarian will be sending out a survey to the Board members to rank the priorities in this strategic area.

Shideh and her team were thanked for their presentation and research.

4. Strategic planning: Staff report on truth and trust

Michael Kerr, Library Services Coordinator for Information and Reader Services and Walter Zicha, Acquisitions and Collections Librarian presented a report on Truth and Trust – library roles and responsibilities in an age of skepticism, suspicion and anti-science bias. The presentation addressed artificial intelligence (AI), dis/misinformation, privacy and security, censorship and intellectual freedom.

In response to a question about how the library collaborates with the K-12 education system, staff confirmed that there is active collaboration and library staff do between 10-25 outreach programs with local schools per year around information and media literacy. While schools are teaching media literacy, there is a lack of media literacy training for adults and seniors.

Trustees asked how staff respond to customers who share conspiracy theories or other misinformation and staff present spoke to strategies used at service desks.

The Board asked what work is needed to strengthen cybersecurity. Staff clarified that the City has many protocols in place for cyberattacks and data breaches but there is more work to do to stay up to date and prepared. Library emergency planning that is underway will also be looking at this.

Trustee R. Jamal left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

## Adoption of minutes

5. Minutes of the April 18, 2024 Board meeting

Trustee P. Somji requested that the topic of the workshop she attended – “Who are our stakeholders?” - be included in the minutes.

**Moved by Trustee R. Bouchard, seconded by Trustee A. Hazfi**

**THAT the Minutes of the April 18, 2024 Library Board meeting be adopted as amended.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

a. Business arising from the April 18, 2024 Board meeting

All business arising has been referred to staff, is in progress, and/or complete.

## Consent agenda items (6 through 12)

6. April Chief Librarian report
7. Committee minutes
  - a. Finance Committee (April 10 & May 15)
8. 2024 Calendar of Events
9. Information report to Council – City Library highlights February and March 2024
10. May 2024 program calendar
11. Revised advocacy plan
12. WelcoME Youth Action Team Review of Community Spaces in the North Shore

**Moved and seconded by trustees present (names not captured in minutes).**

**THAT Consent Agenda items 6-12 be adopted.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## Reports

13. Chair

Trustee B. Harvey gave an update on strategic planning meetings with members of Council and senior City staff – and asked for one trustee to volunteer to work with the Board Chair and Chief Librarian to evaluate consultant proposals for the strategic planning workshop and associated work.

Trustee H. Allan volunteered.

14. Chief Librarian

Chief Librarian D. Hutchison Koep gave an update on the implementation and timeline for flexible schedules. It is expected that new schedules will begin in September 2024.

Chief Librarian D. Hutchison Koep reported that the May 15th staff development day went very well, and acknowledged the contributions of Ta7taliya Michelle Nahanee and Alroy “Uncle Buck” Baker, and Joelle Johnston from Squamish Nation who shared learning and culture with staff. The Chief Librarian thanked the Board for their support for this day.

Chief Librarian D. Hutchison Koep reminded trustees that June 20th will be the Summer Reading Club kick-off.

15. Councillor

Trustee T. Valente submitted a video report regarding current discussions at City Council including building density in Central Lonsdale, parking management and a delegation from VCH about Lions Gate Hospital.

Trustee T. Valente also commented on how much he enjoyed attending the Reading Link Challenge Grand Challenge event at Presentation House.

Trustee T. Valente also spoke about the Assembly of North Shore Leaders meeting where they spoke about the toxic drug crisis, social isolation and mental health. This group is intended to create a common body of knowledge of the social issues facing the North Shore.

16. Advocacy

Trustee E. Luptakova gave a verbal report about the activities of the Advocacy Committee.

17. Finance

a. 2023 Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) (for approval)

Trustee A. Hazfi spoke to the SOFI and clarified that it includes the same information as the audited financial statements, plus some additional information required by the Ministry.

**Moved by Trustee H. Allan, seconded by Trustee R. Bouchard**

**THAT the North Vancouver Library Board approve the 2023 Statement of Financial Information as presented.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

b. 2024 1<sup>st</sup> quarter financials (for approval)

Trustee A. Hazfi spoke to the first quarter financial report and highlighted the changes in presentation, which the Finance Committee feel add clarity.

**Moved by Trustee R. Bouchard, seconded by Trustee E. Luptakova**

**THAT the North Vancouver Library Board approve the 2024 1<sup>st</sup> quarter financial report as presented.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

18. Governance

No report.

19. Student Advisory Trustee

Student Advisory Trustee Z. Spenta spoke about the recent activities of the Teen Advisory Council meetings and events.

20. Trustee reports (verbal)

Trustee D. Brown gave an update about the recent InterLINK Board meeting and about strategic planning work at InterLINK.

Trustee H. Allan spoke about the recent BCLTA AGM she attended and about BCLTA's plans moving forward.

**New business**

21. 2023 Surplus report

Chief Librarian D. Hutchison Koep spoke to the report and highlighted the challenge of addressing the sizeable surplus arising from the Provincial Enhancement Grant.

**Moved by Trustee P. Somji, seconded by Trustee E. Luptakova**

**THAT the North Vancouver Library Board allocate \$30,000 from 2023 surplus funds for an Indigenous Storyteller in Residence program and enhancements to the Middle Years project;**

**AND THAT the North Vancouver City Library Board direct staff to work with City Finance to identify a mechanism to allocate \$373,338 from the 2023 surplus arising from the Provincial Enhancements grant to library projects in 2024-2026;**

**AND THAT the North Vancouver City Library Board direct staff to prepare and submit report(s) and recommendation(s) to Council accordingly.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

22. LawMatters Grant

Manager of Public Services S. Tarcea shared that the Library receives this annual grant to enhance our collection of legal materials, noting that many of these volumes are very expensive. The funder provides a list of recommended materials.

**Moved by Trustee P. Somji, seconded by Trustee E. Luptakova**

**THAT the North Vancouver Library Board approve the receipt of the LawMatters grant and its expenditure as recommended by staff.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Trustee E. Luptakova recused herself from the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

23. Kerney-Luptakova donation

Manager of Operations M. Little described the donation made by Trustee E. Luptakova and her family and directed to the middle years project. The donation will be used for enhancements to the space (such as a special piece of furniture or art).

**Moved by Trustee A. Hazfi, seconded by Trustee R. Bouchard**

**THAT the North Vancouver Library Board approve the receipt of the Kerney-Luptakova family donation and its expenditure as recommended by staff.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Trustee E. Luptakova returned to the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

**Adjournment**


**Moved by Trustee H. Allan, seconded by Trustee D. Brown**

**THAT the meeting be adjourned.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Brendan Harvey  
**Board Chair**

Date JUN 27, 2024.

  
Deb Hutchison Koep  
**Secretary**

Date JUNE 27, 2024