

Approved Minutes

**Calgary Public Library Board
Online via Microsoft Teams
Wednesday, September 29, 2021
5:30 pm**

In Attendance:

Board:

1. Avnish Mehta (Chair)
2. Shereen Samuels (Vice-Chair)
3. Haritha Devulapally
4. Councillor Druh Farrell
5. Sandy Gill
6. Jocelyn Phu
7. Andrew Rodych
8. Sheeba Vijayan

Administration:

1. Sarah Meilleur, *CEO, Interim*
2. Alexis Apps, *Senior Executive Assistant*
3. Tracy Johnson, *CEO, Calgary Public Library Foundation*
4. Mary Kapusta, *Director, Communications*
5. Paul Lane, *Director, Corporate Services*
6. Amanda Robertson, *Executive Assistant*
7. Heather Robertson, *Director, Service Design*
8. Shannon Slater, *Interim Director, Service Delivery*

Regrets:

9. Crystal Manyfingers
10. Councillor Evan Woolley

Guest:

1. Elsa Gee, *CUPE Local 1169*
2. Terrill Budd, *CUPE Local 1169*
3. Lori Kerr, *City of Calgary*
4. Diana Davidson, *Public Library Services Branch*
5. Kerry Anderson, *Public Library Services Branch*

I. Treaty 7 Opening

Alexis Apps respectfully opened the meeting by acknowledging Moh'kinsstis, the lands where the Elbow and Bow Rivers meet. In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, we recognize the ancestral territories, cultures, and oral practices of the Blackfoot people, the Iyârhe Nakoda Nation, the Beaver people of the Tsuut'ina Nation, and the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3. Calgary Public Library serves the community on this traditional land and we honor all people who share, celebrate, and steward the Treaty 7 territory of Southern Alberta. This Land Acknowledgement reminds us of the histories that precede us, highlights our responsibilities going forward, and helps bring us together on a shared journey of Truth and Reconciliation.

II. Review of Agenda

MOVED by Sheeba Vijayan and seconded by Shereen Samuels that the Calgary Public Library Board approve the agenda for the September 29, 2021 meeting.

Carried unanimously

III. Consent Agenda

MOVED by Sandy Gill and seconded by Shereen Samuels that the Calgary Public Library Board approve the minutes of the July 28, 2021 meeting.

Carried unanimously

IV. Business Arising

A. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

B. Advocacy Updates

None.

V. Chair's Report

Avnish Mehta expressed appreciation for the Library as a source of stability in the community during uncertain times. Mehta thanked Sarah Meilleur for her work to date as the Library's Interim CEO.

Mehta recognized the importance of September 30, 2021 as the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, during which time all Library locations will be closed. He encouraged every individual to use the day to reflect on their own personal journey towards reconciliation, whether in programming provided by the Library or through other means.

VI. *Libraries Act* Stakeholder Consultation

Diana Davidson and Kerry Anderson of the Government of Alberta's Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) presented a summary of the opportunities for all stakeholders to provide feedback regarding proposed changes to the *Libraries Act*. The Board has been refining its collective response to a stakeholder consultation survey as part of this process. Davidson advised that PLSB staff will be available to answer the Board's questions regarding this matter until the stakeholder consultation survey is submitted on or before October 8, 2021.

VII. Operational Report (September 2021)

Sarah Meilleur presented highlights from the September Operational Report, including a successful Ultimate Summer Challenge, dates for mobile vaccination clinics at Library locations, and enhancements at Memorial Park Library. Meilleur advised that the Libraries are considered entities that need to be accessed by the public for daily living and as such visitors will be asked to wear masks and will not be asked to present proof of vaccination status.

Meilleur advised that the Library is continuing to develop its strategies targeting equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility. This work will include introducing new Calgary City Council members to the Library's impact in these areas after the election on October 18, 2021.

MOVED by Sandy Gill and seconded by Jocelyn Phu to receive the Operational Report as presented.

Carried unanimously

VIII. Governance Committee

A. Report of the September 1, 2021 Governance Committee Meeting

Sandy Gill presented the minutes of the September 1, 2021 Governance Committee meeting.

MOVED by Sandy Gill and seconded by Haritha Devulapally to receive the Governance Committee Report as presented.

Carried unanimously

IX. Strategy and Community Committee

A. Report of the September 8, 2021 Strategy and Community Committee Meeting

Jocelyn Phu presented the minutes of the September 8, 2021 Strategy and Community Committee meeting.

MOVED by Jocelyn Phu and seconded by Sandy Gill to receive the Governance Committee Report as presented.

Carried unanimously

X. Audit and Finance Committee

A. Audit and Finance Committee Report

Andrew Rodych provided a verbal update on behalf of the Audit and Finance Committee. Rodych advised that the Library has continued to carry an operating surplus and that Administration have continued to proactively reallocate funds to different priority areas as needed.

MOVED by Andrew Rodych and seconded by Haritha Devulapally to receive the Audit and Finance Committee report as presented.

Carried unanimously

XI. Calgary Public Library Foundation

A. Calgary Public Library Foundation Update

Avnish Mehta advised that the Calgary Public Library Foundation Board has appointed a new chair, Rob Van Wielingen.

Tracy Johnson presented highlights from the Foundation report. The Foundation has been undertaking a three-month trial period using a mobile payment operator, TipTap, which allows the Foundation to collect donations through credit, debit, and mobile tap payments at Library locations. The trial will continue until the end of October at Central, Signal Hill, Giuffre Family,

Crowfoot, and Fish Creek locations.

The Foundation has begun a new initiative asking each of their Board members to champion a “Case for Support” from a short list of priority areas, including Digital Equity and My First Bookshelf. Foundation Board members have participated in Development 101 sessions and are working closely with Foundation staff to prospect new donors.

MOVED by Avnish Mehta and seconded by Sandy Gill to receive the Calgary Public Library Foundation Report as presented.

Carried unanimously

XII. Other Business

Avnish Mehta and the Calgary Public Library Board expressed gratitude to Councillor Druh Farrell for her years of service to the organization during her time on City Council. As Farrell is not standing for re-election, her time on the Board will end after the October meeting of the Board.

XIII. In Camera

MOVED by Sandy Gill and seconded by Andrew Rodych that the Calgary Public Library Board move in Camera.

Carried unanimously

MOVED by Sandy Gill and seconded by Haritha Devulapally that the Calgary Public Library Board rise and report.

Report:

1. Information regarding Board nominations provided In Camera to the Calgary Public Library Board on September 29, 2021, remain confidential under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act; and further that the Calgary Public Library Board approve the recommendations of the ad hoc Board recruitment committee on Board appointment candidates and that these candidates be recommended to City Council for its appointment process.
2. Information regarding the Calgary Public Library CEO appointment provided In Camera to the Calgary Public Library Board on September 29, 2021, remain confidential under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act; and further that the Calgary Public Library Board approve the recommendations of the ad hoc CEO recruitment committee and that an offer of employment be made to the approved candidate.

Carried unanimously

XIV. Adjournment

MOVED by Druh Farrell that the meeting be adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Transcribed by Amanda Robertson.

Avnish Mehta
Board Chair