

VPL BOARD

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

Minutes of the VPL Board Meeting held on Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Level 8 Morris J. Wosk Boardroom, 350 West Georgia St., Vancouver, BC.

Present:	Tim Bottomer		
	Victor Huang		
	Emily Lapper		
	Kevin Lowe	—	Chair (attending virtually)
	Melody Ma	—	(arrived at 6:15 pm)
	Clr. Peter Meiszner	—	Vancouver City Councillor
	Karen Spears	-	Acting Chair
	Ziming Yang		
	Abeer Yusuf		
Absent:	Raji Mangat	—	Vice Chair
	Harlan Pruden		
Management Present:	Christina de Castell	—	Chief Librarian & CEO
	Maryn Ashdown	—	Director, Neighbourhood & Youth Services
	Kay Cahill	—	Director, Information Technology & Collections
	Dawn Ibey	—	Director, Central Library & Public Service
	Julia Morrison	—	Director, Corporate Services & CFO
	Carol Nelson	—	Director, Planning & Communication
	Balwinder Rai	—	Director, Human Resources
Staff:	Alicia Cheng	—	Acting Manager, Circulation Services
Guests:	Victoria Jung	—	Chair, Vancouver School Board
	Eleonore Shaffer	—	Member-at-Large, CUPE Local 391
	Kelsey Reimer	—	Recording Secretary, CUPE Local 391
	Jenny Marsh	—	Executive Director, VPL Foundation
	Jamie Broadhurst	—	Board Member, VPL Foundation
	Christian Kruse	—	Co-Chair, Friends of VPL
Recording Secretary:	Chrysalyn Tolentino	—	Executive Assistant

INTRODUCTION

1. Land Acknowledgement

Trustee Karen Spears, acting as Chair of the meeting, acknowledged that our work takes place on the unceded, ancestral and contemporary lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. She noted that we are wrapping up Indigenous History Month and the library did a lot of events, including VPL's Indigenous Storyteller-in-Residence event tonight, as well as hosting the Jericho Lands public consultation open house on June 24. She noted it is exciting and inspiring to see this process being led by Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations on their own land.

ADMINISTRATION

2. Consent Agenda - Removal of Items and Approval

Moved by Clr. Peter Meiszner and seconded by Tim Bottomer

THAT the following Board reports be approved on consent:

- Procurement Policy Revisions

THAT the Board receive the report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Emily Lapper and seconded Abeer Yusuf

THAT the Board approve the regular meeting agenda as received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Minutes

The draft minutes of the Regular Meeting held May 24, 2023 were presented to the Board for approval.

Moved by Tim Bottomer and seconded by Ziming Yang

THAT the draft minutes of the Regular Meeting held May 24, 2023 be approved as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

➤ **Vancouver School Board**

Vancouver School Board Chair Victoria Jung shared a video clip where a teacher and students of Point Grey Secondary School spoke about their positive experience when authors visited their school during Asian Heritage Week. This was a collaboration between the Vancouver School Board and Vancouver Public Library.

➤ **CUPE 391**

Liza Saayman, CUPE 391 President, introduced Eleonore Shaffer and Kelsey Reimer who are newly elected CUPE 391 Executive Committee members. Liza noted that the Board will be discussing facilities development in this meeting and she encouraged them to consider the physicality of library work and ensure that appropriate staff spaces are included in the planning of new facilities. Trustees inquired about process and opportunities for improvement when planning for spaces. Chief Librarian & CEO de Castell noted that branch heads and supervisors are involved in planning and there are always opportunities for improvement.

➤ **Friends of VPL**

Christian Kruse, Co-Chair of the Friends of VPL, shared that the Friends are working with Marketing & Communication staff to design merchandise such as VPL bags and coffee mugs, and thanked VPL staff for assisting Friends in arranging for a space for book storage as they prepare for the September book sale.

➤ **VPL Foundation**

Jenny Marsh, Executive Director of the VPL Foundation, introduced VPL Foundation Board member Jamie Broadhurst. She shared that she attended the International Public Library Fundraising Conference in Austin, Texas from June 11-13. She noted that the VPL Foundation Board had approved disbursements to VPL, encouraged Library Board trustees to attend Rooftop Remix, and shared that revenue from the Give Back Campaign dipped compared to last year, which is aligned with what is happening across Canada regarding giving.

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

5. **Facilities Redevelopment Overview**

Maryn Ashdown, Director of Neighbourhood & Youth Services, presented a report providing an overview of the status of library-related capital projects including redevelopment plans for Britannia, Joe Fortes, Marpole, and Oakridge branches, the

potential redevelopment of Collingwood branch, and potential future library service in the East Fraser Lands (River District), Seḥákw / Burrard Slopes development, Jericho lands/?əyalməxw/lýálmexw development, the West Point Grey branch relocation, the Renfrew area, and the Children’s Library revitalization at Central Library.

She noted that the Children’s Library revitalization has been split into two phases, with phase 2 to be completed once additional funding is secured. Staff are seeking Council support for funding through the Growing Communities Fund so we could deliver the project all at once.

Trustees discussed and sought clarification on areas including advocacy for capital funding, plans at Seḥákw / Burrard Slopes, East Fraser Lands and Joyce Collingwood, . They inquired how delays affect the goals in VPL’s Strategic Plan related to capital projects, and the Chief Librarian & CEO noted that the initiative for Goal 2, which was initially related to Marpole branch, has been replaced with a goal to reflect Indigenous art and language in library spaces. Trustees inquired whether there are communities where we are not meeting needs due to increased density and population growth, and staff answered that this is a current concern for Marpole and the West End, and a future concern for the East Fraser Lands, as noted in the VPL Facilities Master Plan. Trustees also inquired what accessibility standards are used by VPL, and staff answered that branches are certified using Rick Hansen criteria.

There was also a discussion about the VPL Facilities Master Plan, noting that it was created in 2018 and will need to be updated to reflect current population and incorporating Reconciliation as a guiding frame for our planning. Chief Librarian & CEO de Castell noted that the intention was to update the Facilities Master Plan every five years. Staff are hoping to incorporate the City of Vancouver Public Benefit Strategy in the next plan, and this follows from the Vancouver Plan that was approved by Council last year. She noted that conversations are beginning and we can hope to start the process of updating our Facilities Master Plan in 2024. The Board will participate in workshops in order to look at activities and statistics, learn from the Vancouver Plan, and set goals.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the following motion was raised:

Moved by Abeer Yusuf and seconded by Clr. Peter Meiszner

THAT the Board receive the report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURN

Moved by Ziming Yang and seconded by Melody Ma.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Kevin Lowe, Chair

Christina de Castell, Secretary

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