

Minutes of the VPL Board Meeting held on Wednesday, November 22, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at the Level 8 Morris J. Wosk Boardroom, 350 West Georgia St., Vancouver, BC.

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|------------------------|----------------------|---|--|
| Present: | Tim Bottomer | | |
| | Victor Huang | | |
| | Emily Lapper | | |
| | Kevin Lowe | — | Chair |
| | Melody Ma | | |
| | Raji Mangat | — | Vice Chair |
| | Clr. Peter Meiszner | — | Vancouver City Councillor |
| | Harlan Pruden | | |
| | Karen Spears | | |
| | Ziming Yang | | |
| | Abeer Yusuf | | |
| Board Liaisons: | Victoria Jung | — | Chair, Vancouver Board of Education |
| Management | | | |
| Present: | Christina de Castell | — | Chief Librarian & CEO |
| | Maryn Ashdown | — | Director, Neighbourhood & Youth Services |
| | Kay Cahill | — | Director, Information Technology & Collections |
| | Julia Morrison | — | Director, Corporate Services & CFO |
| | Carol Nelson | — | Director, Planning & Communication |
| | Balwinder Rai | — | Director, Human Resources |
| Staff: | Scott Fraser | — | Manager, Marketing & Communications |
| Guests: | Liza Saayman | — | President, CUPE Local 391 |
| | Jenny Marsh | — | Executive Director, VPL Foundation |
| | Christian Kruse | — | Co-Chair, Friends of VPL |
| Recording | | | |
| Secretary: | Chrysalyn Tolentino | — | Executive Assistant |

INTRODUCTION

1. Land Acknowledgement

Board Chair Lowe acknowledged that our work takes place on the unceded, ancestral and contemporary lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. He reflected

on the year end and our own continual learning. He noted that he has been watching videos by Les George (VPL 2023 Indigenous Storyteller-in-Residence) on Tsleil Waututh and Coast Salish culture and encouraged others to also learn from them, in particular noting land rights as a starting point for conversations on Indigenous Rights and Reconciliation, and our responsibility as individuals and as an institution to learn about the Indigenous cultures and languages of this land to advance this work.

Trustee Harlan Pruden commented that he is honoured to witness VPL leadership around Reconciliation and as an example to other organizations. Trustee Melody Ma echoed the sentiment and noted other libraries are now talking about Reconciliation and how to incorporate this into their own systems.

ADMINISTRATION

2. Consent Agenda - Removal of Items and Approval

Moved by Harlan Pruden and seconded by Tim Bottomer

THAT the following be approved on consent:

- Letter from Public Libraries InterLINK to Board Chair Lowe re: 2022 InterLINK Grant

THAT the Board receive the correspondence for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Melody Ma and seconded Emily Lapper

THAT the Board approve the regular meeting agenda as received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Minutes

The draft minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 25, 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 October 25, 2023 be approved as received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

➤ **Vancouver School Board**

Victoria Jung shared information about the VSB governance structure and how they are seeking to incorporate Indigenous voices. They have invited an Indigenous student trustee to be part of the Board, and are inviting the Host Nations to be part of every committee.

➤ **CUPE 391**

Liza Saayman, CUPE 391 President, shared that she attended the CUPE National Convention with over 2,300 delegates from 717 locals across Canada. She noted that the Strategic Plan Quarterly report demonstrates the high level of service to the public, and the benefits of the change in service hours. She commented that this is the work of front-facing staff members, and that the change in hours and other work is causing high levels of stress, anxiety, and burn-out. She shared that VPL staff have the highest utilization of Homewood services in the City, partly due to VPL promoting its use, but also due to high level of stress and mental health impacts of public work, and that it is important for VPL to provide safe spaces for our staff, in addition to the public.

Board Chair Lowe and other trustees commented that front line library workers are often the unsung heroes and thanked them for their work and their compassion, and Liza for her leadership and advocacy.

➤ **Friends of VPL**

Christian Kruse, Co-Chair of the Friends of VPL, shared that the Atrium scaffolding has resulted in reduced sales at Book'mark. He reported that the store will be open during the staff Wellness Conference and that the Friends of VPL Board is wrapping up their long range planning and will present a report in the new year.

➤ **VPL Foundation**

Jenny Marsh, Executive Director of the VPL Foundation shared that the Foundation will be donating notebooks for the VPL staff Wellness Conference. She provided an update that 85 donations have been received from the Direct Appeal and annual Cardholder appeal, sent to approximately 200,000 adult cardholders. She also shared that the Foundation has four new Board members who are officially starting on December 12, and that fundraising will be re-starting for the Children's Library Revitalization project. Trustees sought an update on the Children's Library and Chief Librarian & CEO de Castell noted that staff will share the detailed design for the new Children's Library at an upcoming Library Board meeting.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5. Strategic Plan Reporting – Q3 2023

Carol Nelson, Director of Planning & Communications presented an overview of progress on the Strategic Plan for the 3rd quarter of 2023. Components include quarterly and annual performance measures, strategic initiative progress updates, activities supporting Indigenous Rights and Reconciliation, a spotlight on key library activities, and a sampling of patron appreciation and engagement. Trustees sought clarification on the timelines for Palace Project launch, Multicultural Capacity Building and the Equity and Inclusion framework and staff provided information in response to these inquiries.

Moved by Abeer Yusuf and seconded by Ziming Yang

THAT the draft minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 25, 2023 be approved as received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Board Self-Evaluation

Vice Chair Raji Mangat shared that Board Chair Lowe sent the link to the survey on November 17 and requested that trustees complete the self-evaluation survey by December 1, 2023. She thanked Trustee Huang for updating and consolidating the questions for this year to ensure we have greater understanding of the capacity and role of trustees, especially on Truth and Reconciliation.

ADJOURN

Moved by Melody Ma and seconded by Emily Lapper

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Kevin Lowe, Chair

Christina de Castell, Secretary