

Minutes of the VPL Board Meeting held on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Level 8 Morris J. Wosk Boardroom, 350 West Georgia St., Vancouver, BC.

Present:	Victor Huang		
	Emily Lapper		
	Kevin Lowe	—	Chair
	Parveen Mangat		
	Harlan Pruden		
	Karen Spears	—	Vice Chair
	Ziming Yang		
Absent:	Tim Bottomer		
	Clr. Peter Meiszner	—	Vancouver City Councillor
	Raji Mangat		
	Abeer Yusuf		
Board Liaisons:	Scott Jensen	—	Chair, Vancouver Park Board
	Victoria Jung	—	Chair, Vancouver School Board
Management			
Present:	Christina de Castell	—	Chief Librarian & CEO
	Maryn Ashdown	—	Director, Neighbourhood & Youth Services
	Dawn Ibey	—	Director, Central Library & Public Service
	Julia Morrison	—	Director, Corporate Services & Facilities
	Carol Nelson	—	Director, Planning & Communications
	Balwinder Rai	—	Director, Human Resources
Staff:	Janet Horne	—	Senior Manager, Library Systems
	Lindsey Krabbenhoft	—	Children’s Librarian
Guests:	Christian Kruse	—	Co-Chair, Friends of VPL
	Amir Abbey	—	President, CUPE Local 391
	Alison Wick	—	Executive Steward, CUPE Local 391
Recording			
Secretary:	Chrysalyn Tolentino	—	Executive Assistant

INTRODUCTION

1. Land Acknowledgement

Trustee Lapper acknowledged that attendees are participating from the unceded

homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. She acknowledged that June is National Indigenous History Month and encouraged trustees to explore VPL resources offered to commemorate this event. She noted that work and learning on Reconciliation requires year round and life long effort, and shared a personal story of Reconciliation.

ADMINISTRATION

1. Consent Agenda - Removal of Items and Approval

Moved by Victor Huang and seconded by Harlan Pruden

THAT the following Board reports be approved on consent:

- Draft Minutes – June 19, 2024 SFHR Committee Regular Mtg.
THAT the Library Board receive the draft minutes for information.
- Accessible BC Act 2024 Update
THAT the Library Board receive the report for information.
- Capital Midterm Update
THAT the Library Board receive the report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Parveen Mangat and seconded by Ziming Yang

THAT the Board approve the regular meeting agenda as received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Minutes

The draft minutes of the Regular Meeting held May 22, 2024 were presented to the Board for approval.

Moved by Parveen Mangat and seconded by Karen Spears

THAT the draft minutes of the Regular Meeting held May 22, 2024 be approved as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Trustee Check in

Trustees shared personal reflections.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

➤ **Vancouver School Board**

Victoria Jung, Chair of the Vancouver School Board shared information about food literacy and financial literacy programs.

➤ **CUPE Local 391**

Amir Abbey, CUPE 391 President, introduced Executive Steward Alison Wick and announced that the newly elected Executive Committee officials began their roles on June 1st. He also shared that two CUPE 391 members attended the CUPE BC Superconference. Amir added that 577 CUPE 391 members came out to vote to ratify the Collective Agreement between VPL and CUPE 391, and he is working with the employer on implementing the agreement.

➤ **Friends of VPL**

Christian Kruse, Co-Chair of the Friends of VPL shared that they held their AGM in May where members elected 12 board members. He thanked Director Ibey for attending and thanked Scott Fraser, Marketing & Communications Manager for his updates on the Children's Library Renovation Project. Christian noted that the Friends will hold their annual book sale from September 5-8, 2024 and also noted that Book'mark will be selling VPL merchandise.

PRESENTATION

5. **STEM Lending Kits**

Lindsey Krabbenhoft, Children's Librarian provided an overview of the VPL STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) kits thanks to generous support from the VPL Foundation. All locations will be equipped to lend a variety of STEM toys and games for children and families for use in the library. The goal is to provide access to lower barrier STEM programming and resources that meet the educational and recreational needs of children and families. The toys foster problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, curiosity, decision making, leadership and resiliency. The kits also give library staff an opportunity to increase engagement in our spaces and help families discover new ways for their children to learn. Lindsey noted that staff conducted a pilot study from November 2023 to January 2024 in several branches to develop best practices around how to lend these toys in the library, and collected 198 surveys from families to determine which toys are best suited to in-branch lending, and to learn community interest.

Trustees noted their excitement to learn about the new program, thanked staff for implementing the project, and asked questions about the implementation. Director Ashdown noted that this is a huge initiative since we have 21 branches and every family in

Vancouver can walk in to any branch and use these toys. She noted that North Vancouver is doing a similar program; and that we are a leader in terms of the public service model with staff-supported in branch use. Trustees also sought clarification whether staff are tracking our capacity to meet demand, and about promotion. Lindsey noted that children’s librarians gather feedback from the public that they forward to the CTS supervisory team, and that the department is working with Marketing & Communications this month to produce videos with children demonstrating how to use these kits.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

6. UNDRIP Action Plan

Chief Librarian & CEO de Castell reported that Vancouver City Council endorsed the UNDRIP Action Plan on June 25, 2024 and has referred the Plan to VPL Board. She summarized the report, which noted that VPL staff have participated in the development of the UNDRIP Action Plan with City of Vancouver staff and staff from the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. She recommended that the VPL Board adopt the Plan and collaborate on co-implementation of the relevant actions as requested by Council. Trustees expressed their support for endorsing the Action Plan and sought clarification around reporting mechanisms for the Board. Trustee Pruden offered to be of assistance to VPL to make connections with the local Nations and noted the importance of their involvement in VPL governance. Chief Librarian & CEO de Castell noted that as work unfolds, staff would continue to report to the Board on progress through the quarterly Strategic Plan reports, and the UNDRIP activities would be incorporated in annual reports to the Board on the Indigenous Rights & Reconciliation Strategy. Board Chair Lowe encouraged trustees to read about the context for UNDRIP, and commented that VPL as an organization has a role in driving change. He also asked that staff report on the timeline of implementation and advancing this work at a future Governance Committee meeting. .

At the conclusion of the discussion, the following motions were raised:

Moved by Emily Lapper and seconded by Parveen Mangat

THAT the Board adopt the UNDRIP Action Plan and collaborate on co-implementation of relevant Actions within.

THAT the Board direct staff to incorporate the Actions into the implementation of the VPL Indigenous Rights and Reconciliation Strategy

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURN

Moved by Harlan Pruden and seconded by Victor Huang

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Kevin Lowe, Chair

Christina de Castell, Secretary