

Minutes of the VPL Board Community Relations, Planning & Development Committee Regular Meeting held on Monday, September 16, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Present: Raji Mangat – Chair
Emily Lapper
Kevin Lowe
Harlan Pruden
Karen Spears
Abeer Yusuf (left the meeting at 5:44 pm)

Management

Present: Christina de Castell – Chief Librarian & CEO
Maryn Ashdown – Director, Neighbourhood & Youth Services
Dawn Ibey – Director, Central Library & Public Service
Carol Nelson – Director, Planning & Communications

Recording

Secretary: Chrysalyn Tolentino – Executive Assistant

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Committee Chair Mangat acknowledged that our work and the Library are on unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, and the evolving relationship with these Nations. She reflected on the turning of the season and the importance of thinking about the land and the Nations' stewardship. She provided comment on discussions with Trustee Pruden and Vice Chair Spears to deepen trustees' relationship to these lands and their commitments to action.

ADMINISTRATION:**1. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Abeer Yusuf

THAT the Committee approve the regular meeting agenda as received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Minutes

The Chief Librarian & CEO presented the draft minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 13, 2024 for approval by the Committee.

Moved by Emily Lapper

THAT the draft minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 13, 2024 be approved as received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT/FUNDRAISING

3. Naming Subcommittee Terms of Reference

Emily Lapper, CRPD Naming Subcommittee Chair, presented the proposed Terms of Reference for the newly formed CRPD Naming Subcommittee, and highlighted key points. Trustees reviewed, sought clarification and provided the following feedback:

- Trustees sought clarification about the scope of naming discussions at the committee, noting that Indigenous naming is out of scope, and querying commemorative naming. Staff noted there may be value in a role for the subcommittee related to commemorative naming, and clarified that naming by Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations would be out of scope, but naming by Indigenous donors would be in scope. The Committee agreed to amend the statement that the subcommittee reviews proposed names “...with the exception of naming by the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations”.
- In the membership section, clarified that the “Chair” who provides the appointment to the Subcommittee is the “CRPD Chair”.
- Trustees discussed whether donor recognition programs should be considered by the subcommittee, or directly by the CRPD committee, and concluded the additional step of review at the subcommittee level was unnecessary, and these could be handled by the CRPD committee directly.
- Trustees discussed the provision of Subcommittee meeting minutes and agreed that the Subcommittee will provide minutes to CRPD Committee, and that the CRPD Committee would consider whether to provide them to the Board, noting any decisions would be contained in the CRPD minutes. The purpose of the committee statement was amended to incorporate providing minutes to the CRPD committee.

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

Moved by Karen Spears

THAT the Committee recommend that the Board approve the CRPD Naming Subcommittee Terms of Reference as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Philanthropic Recognition Opportunities for Children’s Library

Naming Subcommittee Chair Lapper noted that the CRPD Committee, at its March 13, 2024 meeting, approved a fundraising program that would include recognition of boughs/branches on the elevated tree structure in the Children’s Library. Subsequently, VPL staff learned that the boughs/branches on the elevated tree are not suitable for donor recognition, as they will be too high to be visible. VPL Foundation worked with VPL staff to identify an alternate site for naming recognition at the \$10,000 level, 30 stair risers of the staircase to/from the Children’s Library, and the Naming Subcommittee is recommending approval of this change of program.

Moved by Abeer Yusuf

THAT the Committee recommend that the Board approve development of a fundraising program with recognition on the stair risers of the staircase to/from the Children’s Library for donations at the \$10,000 level, to replace the previously approved fundraising program at this level.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PLANNING

5. Official Development Plan Introduction

Chief Librarian & CEO de Castell presented a report that provides information about the City of Vancouver Official Development Plan (ODP) and the implications for the upcoming VPL Facilities Master Plan refresh. Given the expected impact of the ODP on VPL’s facilities planning, and the expectation that the Board will participate in the ODP development, staff have invited the City’s Planning staff to attend the September Board meeting to provide an overview. Consultation with boards on the ODP is scheduled through to June 2025. Following the presentation in September, the CPRD committee will discuss approach to setting service level targets and updating the VPL Facilities Master Plan. Trustees commented on the need for an introduction, and asked about the potential impacts on the ODP for timing of the Facilities Master Plan update. Chief Librarian & CEO de Castell answered that the goal of the presentation is to enable an informed discussion about the timing and impacts. Trustees asked about the importance of this presentation and the timing of the process. Chief Librarian & CEO de Castell noted these discussions guide priorities, sizes and locations for library branches, and given the importance, the discussions will progress over time so the Board can participate at an appropriate level. The Board’s involvement is expected to conclude in 2025.

Moved by Abeer Yusuf

That the CRPD Committee recommend that the Board receive the report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Strategic Plan Reporting – Q2 2024

Carol Nelson, Director of Planning & Communications, presented an overview of the progress on the Strategic Plan in the 2nd quarter of 2024. Director Nelson noted that some projects have not yet started due to capacity.

<The Committee moved to in camera at 5:46 pm and returned to the regular meeting at 6:00 pm>

Trustees commented on the information in the report, and Committee Chair Mangat expressed gratitude to staff for its preparation and the updates on progress on the Strategic Plan.

Moved by Harlan Pruden

THAT the CRPD Committee recommend that the Board receive the report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURN

Moved by Harlan Pruden

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Raji Mangat, Chair

Christina de Castell, Secretary