

Minutes of the VPL Board Inaugural Meeting held on Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Level 8 Morris J. Wosk Boardroom, 350 West Georgia St., Vancouver, BC.

**Present:** Tim Bottomer — Vice Chair  
 Courtney Chu  
 Joshua Davidson  
 Clr. Pete Fry — Vancouver City Councillor  
 Victor Huang  
 Emily Lapper  
 Kevin Lowe  
 Parveen Mangat  
 Harlan Pruden — arrived at 6:11 p.m.  
 Karen Spears — Chair

**Absent:** Ziming Yang

#### Management

**Present:** Dawn Ibey — Interim 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 & Communications  
 Balwinder Rai — Director, Human Resources

**Staff:** Kim Constable — Manager, Neighbourhood Services  
 Patricia Chong — Manager, Policy & Planning  
 Rick Ouellet — VPL Indigenous Planner

**Guests:** Amir Abbey — Member-at-Large, CUPE Local 391  
 Ali Wick — Executive Steward, CUPE Local 391  
 Jenny Marsh — Executive Director, VPL Foundation  
 Bri Turner — Co-Chair, Friends of VPL

#### Recording

**Secretary:** Chrysalyn Tolentino — Executive Assistant

#### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Dawn Ibey, Interim Chief Librarian & CEO acknowledged that our work takes place on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. She is grateful for

the peoples for their enduring connection to the land and their stewardship. As a public institution, VPL recognizes the importance of respecting and supporting a rich cultural heritage of Indigenous people of British Columbia. VPL is committed to fostering an environment that Indigenous voices are heard and valued, and where knowledge, dialogue and Reconciliation grow together. Interim Chief Librarian & CEO Ibey acknowledged and welcomed Clr. Pete Fry as the City Liaison to the Library Board and Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky as representative from the Vancouver Park Board. She also welcomed our two new trustees Courtney Chu and Joshua Davidson.

## **INAUGURAL MEETING:**

Interim Chief Librarian & CEO Dawn Ibey acknowledged that our work takes place on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

### **1. Election of Chair**

Interim Chief Librarian & CEO Dawn Ibey, acting as Chair, called the 2025 Inaugural Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The Interim Chief Librarian & CEO then called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Library Board.

Moved by Tim Bottomer

*THAT Karen Spears be nominated as Chair of the VPL Board for 2025.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

There being no other nominations, the Interim Chief Librarian & CEO declared Trustee Karen Spears elected to the office of Chair by acclamation.

### **2. Election of Vice Chair**

Trustee Spears assumed the position of Chair and called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair.

Moved by Emily Lapper

*THAT Tim Bottomer be nominated as Vice-Chair of the VPL Board for 2025.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

There being no other nominations, Board Chair Spears declared Trustee Bottomer elected to the office of Vice-Chair by acclamation.

### **3. Chair's Remarks**

Board Chair Spears welcomed new and returning trustees to the 2025 Vancouver Public Library Board as well as welcomed representatives from CUPE 391, VPL Foundation, and

Friends of VPL. She thanked trustees for trusting her and for their support in carrying out this role. She noted that she will do her utmost in respecting people's time, building relationships and support collaboration. Board Chair Spears enumerated the numerous projects for this year including the completion of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, Chief Librarian & CEO recruitment, continuing work on UNDRIP, and balancing many competing interests in the midst of challenging times for public libraries including ongoing drug crises, homelessness and poverty. She looks forward to working together with trustees.

## PRESENTATION

### 4. UNDRIP at VPL

Rick Ouellet, VPL Indigenous Planner, presented some updates on the activities to implement UNDRIP at VPL including the West Point Grey welcome sign, Oakridge naming, Children's Library mural and artist selection jury, formalized recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, urban Indigenous engagement events, expanded programming and governance projects. Trustees sought more detail on the activities that are underway, sought clarification on the libraries role in UNDRIP, inquired about the status of plan for Host Nation participation on VPL governance and the plans to implement calls to action as per BC DRIPA. The Board thanked Rick for his presentation and noted their appreciation of his role and work at VPL.

## ADMINISTRATION

### 5. Consent Agenda - Removal of Items and Approval

Trustees agreed to pull out the Board Annual Planning Calendar and 2025 Public Library InterLINK Provisional Budget from the consent agenda.

Moved by Parveen Mangat and seconded by Courtney Chu

*THAT the following Board reports be approved on consent:*

- Annual Privacy Report  
*THAT the Library Board receive the report for information.*
- Letter from VPL Board Chair to Minister R. Khalon  
*THAT the Library Board receive the correspondence for information.*
- 2025 Operating Budget Decision – October 30, 2024  
*THAT the Library Board receive the Operating Budget decision for information.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### 6. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Victor Huang and seconded by Parveen Mangat

*THAT the Board approve the regular meeting agenda as amended.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**7. Minutes**

The draft minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 30, 2024 were presented to the Board for approval.

Moved by Victor Huang and seconded by Tim Bottomer

*THAT the draft minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 30, 2024 be approved as received.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8. Trustee Round Table**

Trustees introduced themselves and shared personal reflections.

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

➤ **CUPE Local 391**

Amir Abbey, President of CUPE 391, introduced Ali Wick, Executive Steward to the Board. Amir welcomed the new trustees and thanked the Board for advocating to City Council the approval of the Library's operating budget. He also thanked the Board for the opportunity to meet with the executive recruitment firm who is tasked in the recruitment of the new Chief Librarian & CEO. He also highlighted the fact that it is their members who deals with public complaints when VPL management makes controversial policy changes.

➤ **Friends of VPL**

Bri Turner, Co-Chair of the Friends of VPL, shared that Bookmark' expanded its offering of VPL branded products. She noted that the Bookmark Store is performing extremely well and looking at various vendors and hope to offer additional merchandise for children in the near future. The Friends of VPL Board is recruiting for new Board members and asked trustees to promote this to their friends. Bri noted that the Friends have had an extremely successful year in 2024 and will provide more information at the February Library Board meeting.

➤ **VPL Foundation**

Jenny Marsh, Executive Director of the VPL Foundation, shared that the Foundation just welcomed two new board members. She noted that the Cardholder Campaign really came back strong resulting in over \$100K donations received, while their fall direct mail and email

solicitation campaign netted \$160K.

## ITEM FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

### 9. VPL Indigenous Rights and Reconciliation Strategy – 2022-2024 Actions

Carol Nelson presented the report that provides a summary of activities that VPL has undertaken from 2022 to 2024 to address the goals outlined in the Indigenous Rights and Reconciliation Strategy. This strategy contributes to the implementation of the City of Vancouver's response to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and responds to the calls of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada. She shared a handout created last year that provides a timeline that speaks to the commitment that VPL has had to Indigenous rights and Reconciliation for quite some time. The Board approved the strategy in November 2022 and activities in this report encompass since 2022.

Trustee Pruden expressed his delight in reading the report noting that this year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the release of TRC Calls to Action and suggested VPL to ensure that UNDRIP and BC DRIPPA are cross referenced ensuring that VPL is leveraging the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the calls to action.

Trustee Lapper asked if there is an action item to build more capacity in having more staff that are Indigenous at VPL. Director Nelson noted that VPL is working on developing opportunities to those who are going through the educational system that offers Indigenous students' opportunities for internship programs as well as ensuring that their voices in the organization are being heard.

Trustee Lowe sought examples of repatriation of artifacts and Rick Ouellet provided some examples. He added that VPL is working on developing a strategy and/or policy on how we repatriate materials taken from Indigenous communities.

Clr. Fry noted his appreciation of VPL Librarian Ariel Caldwell's work on the amazing genealogy display in Britannia Branch and VPL staff providing public programming that reflects the work on UNDRIP.

Moved by Victor Huang and seconded by Emily Lapper

*THAT the Board receive the report for information.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## ITEMS MOVED OUT OF CONSENT

### 10. Board Annual Planning Calendar

Board Chair Spears noted that last year, Trustees Pruden, Mangat and herself organized some Board learning around Reconciliation and suggested an in-person Board workshop for May and a team building activity such as Takaya Cultural tour in September this year. She asked that these activities be added to the Board annual planning calendar for review by the incoming Chief Librarian & CEO. Trustee Lowe also asked to include Governance Committee meetings be included in the calendar.

Moved by Courtney Chu and seconded by Victor Huang

*THAT the Board receive the report as amended.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### 11. 2025 InterLINK Provisional Budget

Board Chair Karen Spears shared that the provisional 2025 InterLINK budget was passed at the Board meeting held November 26, 2024.

Moved by Harlan Pruden and seconded by Parveen Mangat

*THAT the Board receive the 2025 Public Library InterLINK provisional budget for information.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## ADJOURN

Moved by Victor Huang and seconded by Harlan Pruden

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Karen Spears, Chair

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Dawn Ibey, Secretary