

VPL BOARD

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Minutes of the VPL Board Meeting held on Wednesday, February 26, 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		
	Victor Huang		
	Kevin Lowe		
	Karen Spears	—	Chair
	Ziming Yang		
Absent:	Clr. Pete Fry	—	Vancouver City Councillor
	Emily Lapper		
	Parveen Mangat		
	Harlan Pruden		
Liaison:	Brennan Bastovanszky	—	Commissioner, Vancouver Park Board
	Preeti Faridkot	—	Trustee, Vancouver School Board
Management Present:	Dawn Ibey	—	Interim Chief Librarian & CEO
	Maryn Ashdown	—	Director, Neighbourhood & Youth Services
	Kay Cahill	—	Director, Information Technology & Collections
	Alicia Cheng	—	Acting Director, Central Library & Public Service
	Julia Morrison	—	Director, Corporate Services & CFO
Staff:	Polly Argo	—	Manager, Programming & Learning
	Jon Downey	—	Manager, Security Services
Guests:	Amir Abbey	—	Member-at-Large, CUPE Local 391
	Tanya Ferry	—	Trustee, CUPE Local 391
	Jenny Marsh	—	Executive Director, VPL Foundation
	Ann Byczko	—	Director of Philanthropy, VPL Foundation
	Bri Turner	—	Board Member, Friends of VPL
Recording Secretary:	Chrysalyn Tolentino	—	Executive Assistant

INTRODUCTION

1. Land Acknowledgement

Board Chair Karen Spears acknowledged that VPL's work takes place on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. She participated in the annual Women's Memorial March on February 14 in honour of the Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ people who have died on the Downtown Eastside and across the province. It was a powerful experience to take part in this march and lending support to the grief and trauma of the First Nations people. She shared the news about an Indigenous knowledge speaker and learnings that it is not appropriate for them to change to their regalia in public washrooms. She also noted the historic agreement between Musqueam and Vancouver International Airport that includes a number of scholarships and new jobs, 1% of annual revenue share from YVR, identification and protection of archeological resources and support for ongoing operations and long-term development at the airport. She acknowledged that February is Black History Month and the Library has numerous events to commemorate this important event. To celebrate Freedom to Read Week, trustees shared the book that they are currently reading.

PRESENTATION

1. 2025 Indigenous Storyteller-in-Residence

Polly Argo, Manager of Programming and Learning introduced Chris Bose, VPL's 2025 Indigenous Storyteller-in-Residence. Chris is a writer, multi-disciplinary artist, musician, curator, and filmmaker from Kamloops, B.C. and is part of the Nlaka'pamux and Secwepemc Nations. His work were published in a variety of publications and galleries and he brings a high level of experience, enthusiasm, and expertise to this residency. Chris shared some reflections about his past and that he is looking forward to his work as the VPL Indigenous Storyteller-in-Residence. His residency runs from March 10 to June 15 and invited trustees to attend one of his workshops.

ADMINISTRATION

2. Consent Agenda - Removal of Items and Approval

Moved by Ziming Yang and seconded by Tim Bottomer

THAT the following Board reports be approved on consent:

- Draft Minutes – February 19, 2025 SFHR Committee Regular Mtg.
THAT the Library Board receive the draft minutes for information.
- Quarterly Financial Report – Q4 2024
THAT the Library Board receive the report for information.

- 2025 SFHR Terms of Reference
THAT the Library Board receive the report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Victor Huang and seconded by Ziming Yang

THAT the Board approve the regular meeting agenda as received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Minutes

The draft minutes of the Regular Meeting held January 29, 2025 were presented to the Board for approval.

Moved by Victor Huang and seconded by Courtney Chu

THAT the draft minutes of the Regular Meeting held January 29, 2025 be approved as received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

➤ **Vancouver School Board**

Vancouver School Board Trustee Preeti Faridkot shared the work on equity audit of their school libraries spearheaded by their equity and anti-oppression team. High school department heads and their teams curate short stories of lived experiences of their student population to supplement traditional resources based on the ethnicity of the student population. Teacher librarians in elementary schools continue working and sharing non-fiction and fiction books that reflect the diversity of their students. These includes books that features diverse authors that support the different cultures and background of their student population.

➤ **Vancouver Park Board**

Park Board Commissioner Brennan Bastovovanszky reported that Vancouver Park Board voted Tuesday to maintain a 50-metre lap pool at the Vancouver Aquatic Centre as part of a long-proposed renewal plan for the facility. Park Board also indicated their support for a Greenline Ferries proposal to bring an electric powered passenger ferry service between Vancouver and the Sunshine Coast.

➤ **CUPE Local 391**

Amir Abbey, President of CUPE 391 thanked the Library Board specifically Trustee Lapper

for providing an update on the recruitment of the Chief Librarian & CEO noting his appreciation of the process. He shared the sad news that one of their member, Barbara Walker, passed away recently who was a gentle soul devoted to library work. The CUPE 391 family will miss her. He also shared that CUPE 391 will send several members to the CUPE BC Convention in April.

➤ **Friends of VPL**

Bri Turner, Board member of the Friends of VPL, extended her heartfelt thank you to trustees for helping spread the word for their board recruitment resulting in a strong slate of potential board members. One of their projects this year is creating a video recording to introduce the Friends of VPL and the role they play in the community.

➤ **VPL Foundation**

Jenny Marsh, Executive Director of the VPL Foundation noted that their next board meeting will be held on March 11. She noted that they are starting to get ready for the second direct response campaign commencing in the spring including a direct mail and family campaign. She shared that there will be two Roof Top Remix events this summer: one in August and another in September.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

5. VPL Trustee Appointments

Board Chair Spears thanked trustees for indicating their interest in committee and liaison roles. She presented a report recommending appointments for Public Library InterLINK, Friends of VPL, VPL Foundation and VPL Trust for 2025 and noted that we are still looking for an alternate liaison for the Public Library InterLINK. Trustee Huang volunteered for this liaison role. The Board also noted that a fifth member of the Governance Committee will have to be appointed soon and Board Chair Spears will connect with trustees to confirm membership.

Moved by Joshua Davidson and seconded by Tim Bottomer

THAT the Board appoint Trustee Joshua Davidson as representative to the Public Library InterLINK Board for a term of one year;

THAT the Board appoint Trustee Victor Huang as backup representative to the Public Library InterLINK Board for a term of one year;

THAT the Board appoint Trustee Emily Lapper as representative to the Friends of VPL Board for a term of one year;

THAT the Board appoint Trustee Courtney Chu as backup representative to the Friends of VPL Board for a term of one year;

THAT the Board appoint Vice Chair Tim Bottomer as representative to the VPL Foundation Board for a term of one year;

THAT the Board appoint Trustee Parveen Mangat as backup representative to the VPL Foundation Board for a term of one year; and

THAT the Board appoint Trustee Victor Huang as representative to the VPL Trust for a term of two years.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. 2024 Provincial Public Library Grant Report

SFHR Committee Chair Ziming Yang introduced the report that provided an overview of VPL's submission to the Public Libraries Branch of the BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs related to services delivered in 2024 that were supported by provincial funding. This report will be submitted to the Province to meet the March 1st deadline, following approval from the VPL Board.

Trustees inquired on how much of this grant funds operations and if the Board will need to advocate for increased permanent budget. Staff responded that the three-year grant represents 1.7% of the overall budget and noted that now is not the time to advocate for increased budget due to the current political climate.

Moved by Victor Huang and seconded by Ziming Yang

THAT the Board approve the 2024 Provincial Library Grant Report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Respect in the Workplace Policy

SFHR Committee Chair Ziming Yang introduced the report noting that the Committee discussed and recommended that the board rescind the two Board policies and convert these into one administrative policy.

Trustees sought clarification on the purpose of rescinding the two Board policies and the creation of an administrative policy noting that it is important that the organization should have a board level Respect in the Workplace Board policy with a separate administrative policy that sets out the execution of the Board policy. Staff replied that the intention is to mirror what the City did to their policies as well as include the concept of restorative practices and provides modernization on our approach and the ability to handle issues internally. The administrative policy allows for clarity, helps staff understand the process, and sets expectations on how to deal with conflicts. Trustees agreed in the creation of a

high level Board policy. At the conclusion of the discussion, the following motions were raised:

Moved by Victor Huang and seconded by Ziming Yang

THAT the Board rescind two current Board policies - Respectful Workplace and Human Rights & Harassment; and

THAT the Board direct staff to bring back a high level Respect in the Workplace Board Policy to the May 28, 2025 Library Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

8. Strategic Plan Reporting – Q4 2024

Interim Chief Librarian & CEO Ibey provided an overview of the year end key metrics that showed progress made on the priorities and goals outlined in the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan as of December 2024.

Trustees sought information on the timeline for Goal 3.4 “Equity and Inclusion Framework” and Goal 2.2.1 “Children’s Library Revitalization” as well as the opening of the new Oakridge Library, and staff responded with additional information. Trustees suggested that it would be helpful to highlight gaps in the performance measures to aid trustees in understanding the report.

Moved by Victor Huang and seconded by Ziming Yang

THAT the Board receive the report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURN

Moved by Ziming Yang and seconded by Tim Bottomer

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Karen Spears, Chair

Dawn Ibey, Secretary