
Minutes of the VPL Board Community Relations, Planning & Development Committee Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via conference call.

Present: Jennifer Chan
Kurt Heinrich – Chair
Rebecca Jules
Raji Mangat
Harlan Pruden
Abeer Yusuf

Management

Present: Christina de Castell – Chief Librarian
Julie Iannacone – Director, Neighbourhood & Youth Services
Dawn Ibey – Director, Library Experience
Julia Morrison – Director, Corporate Services & Facilities
Carol Nelson – Director, Planning & Communications

Guest: Kari Scott-Whyte – President, CUPE 391

Recording

Secretary: Chrysalyn Tolentino – Executive Assistant

ADMINISTRATION:

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Raji Mangat

THAT the Committee approve the regular meeting agenda as received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Minutes

The Chief Librarian presented the draft minutes of the Regular Meeting November 16, 2020 for approval by the Committee.

Moved by Abeer Yusuf

THAT the draft minutes of Regular Meeting held November 16, 2020 be approved as received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

POLICY

3. Changes to the Sponsorship Policy

Julia Morrison, Director of Corporate Services & Facilities, provided an overview of the changes made to the VPL Sponsorship Policy adopting key elements from the new City policy, and incorporating the CRPD Committee feedback and Board Chair's edits following the November meeting. Board Chair Chan thanked staff for incorporating the feedback and sought clarification on section 6.2a noting that this does not necessarily mean that we would disqualify sponsors due to ongoing or prior litigation with the City. Chief Librarian de Castell noted that as part of the background check, staff will discuss the relevance of particular litigation with the City. Vice Chair Mangat sought clarification on section 6.2d and how the policy would impact donations, and Julia clarified the policy does not apply to donations. Trustee Pruden noted that this is an opportunity to apply a JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) lens and explicitly be attentive to the history of a potential sponsor's relations with Indigenous peoples, and to consider how the sponsorship furthers the Library's goals around Truth & Reconciliation. The Chief Librarian agreed to incorporate this in procedures for background checks. Trustee Jules suggested that the Indigenous Considerations section be broader and better articulate the potential impact of sponsorship, and all policies, on relationships with Indigenous communities, and provided specific suggestions. The Chief Librarian summarized the Committee's suggestions for inclusion in the draft to the Board. After extensive discussion, the following motion was raised:

Moved by Harlan Pruden

THAT the Committee recommend that the Board approve the revised Sponsorship Policy as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

4. Invitation to MST Nations for Input and Engagement

Staff sought the Committee's feedback on the content of a draft letter and outline of VPL's plans and activities related to Truth & Reconciliation to be provided to the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations as an invitation for feedback and participation. Trustee Jules asked if this will include urban Indigenous community organizations. Chief Librarian de Castell noted that VPL has staff relationships with Indigenous community organizations to collaborate, and this draft is specifically for the MST Nations following protocol established with the City of Vancouver's Intergovernmental Relations department. Trustee Jules acknowledged the importance of this intergovernmental contact, particularly related to naming and visual acknowledgement in branches, and identified the importance of understanding protocols for approaching Nations when asking for information and knowledge.

Chief Librarian de Castell noted that the Manager of Indigenous Relations will provide staff with guidance on protocols for the final document.

<Trustee Raji Mangat left at 6:15 pm>

Trustees Yusuf, Pruden and Board Chair Chan suggested additional edits to be more attentive to relationships, intention and reciprocity.

Moved by Jennifer Chan

THAT the Committee receive the report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Phased COVID Recovery Plan for Programs and Rentals

Julia Morrison presented the draft report that outlines VPL's plans for gradual restoration of public programs and facilities rentals using a phased approach. Staff plan to incrementally restore programs and rentals that are permissible within health restrictions during 2021, and will prioritize restoration of space with a preference for Library-delivered programs and partnership programs. Board Chair Chan sought clarification on the purpose of the report, and whether this indicated an intended policy shift. Director Morrison responded that the phased recovery plan is operational and not suggesting a policy shift, . Director Ibey noted that the report also focuses on the opportunities to retain virtual program delivery as well as provide in person program delivery once health restrictions have been lifted. Trustee Yusuf asked if VPL will seek to be a location for vaccinations. Director Morrison responded that we are keen to have vaccination clinic and will discuss this with Vancouver Coastal Health once they approach civic facilities. Trustee Pruden noted the value of backup electrical generators on site selection for vaccination.

Moved by Abeer Yusuf

THAT the Committee receive the report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Cardholder Email Campaign Results

Carol Nelson, Director of Planning & Communications, provided an overview of the results of the VPL cardholder email campaign. As a direct result of this campaign, 1,421 VPL cardholders made new donations to the VPL Foundation totalling \$123,429. Staff will undertake further evaluation in collaboration with the VPL Foundation to determine optimal timing and targets for any subsequent campaigns. Staff noted that the email was sent to patrons who registered their email address and did not go to patrons who have not provided an email address, and also excluded staff and Board members. Trustees sought clarification on the email recipient

list, definition of unattributed gifts, data on donations per neighbourhood, and privacy protocols. Trustees indicated that they would like to receive email campaigns of this nature in the future.

Moved by Abeer Yusuf

THAT the Committee receive the report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

GOVERNANCE

7. CRPD Terms of Reference

Chief Librarian Christina de Castell presented the Community Relations, Planning & Development Committee Terms of Reference for information. She noted that the Terms of Reference are reviewed every year and were last reviewed in February 2020. The Committee did not identify new areas that require change or clarification.

Moved by Harlan Pruden

THAT the Committee recommend that the Board approve the CRPD Committee Terms of Reference as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURN

Moved by Jennifer Chan

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Kurt Heinrich, Chair

Christina de Castell, Secretary