

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: June 14, 2022
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Meeting Date: June 22, 2022

TO: Library Board
FROM: Kurt Heinrich, Chair, CRPD Committee
SUBJECT: Civic Election Orientation

SUMMARY

This report provides information on the 2022 civic election process. Discussion at CRPD Committee supports staff in drafting messages and materials to facilitate trustee conversations with Council liaisons and other civic election candidates.

PURPOSE

This report is for information.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board receive the report for information.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

The CRPD Committee discussed the purpose of the proposed event in September and the reasons for candidates to participate, as well as other opportunities and approaches for VPL to share priorities with the parties and individuals running for office.

POLICY

The operating budget drives VPL's ability to meet the objectives in its strategic plan.

INDIGENOUS CONSIDERATIONS

VPL's operating budget determines our ability to deliver services to Vancouver's Urban Indigenous communities and to the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. Over the past two years, Vancouver City Council considered priorities for new investment shared by VPL trustees and staff including those that would increase VPL's capacity to advance its priorities around Reconciliation and supporting the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This included funding to create a permanent Indigenous Planner position, and to enable fine free services.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

VPL's Strategic Plan outlines four priority areas and 13 goals. As achieving these is contingent on municipal funding, it is critical that civic leaders understand and support the work of the Library. Goal 4.3 "Increase public awareness and usage of VPL services" specifically identifies the need to ensure that VPL continues to be viewed as vital to Vancouver and worth funding.

BACKGROUND

Currently, VPL trustees are each assigned Council liaisons to ensure that Councillors are aware of the role VPL plays in Vancouver, and understand library funding challenges.

Each summer, the City begins to develop next year's operating budget. The VPL Board usually approves the Library budget in October or November, subject to Council approval in December. Trustees typically meet with their Council liaisons throughout the fall in advance of Council deliberations on budgets in early December. This provides an opportunity to share highlights of the past year and communicate the rationale for investment requests. After Council has approved the Library's Operating Budget, the Board approves any final adjustments.

As the Vancouver civic election will be held October 15, 2022, Council may take a different approach to review and approve the 2023 budget. The last scheduled meeting of the current Council is July 20, after which there is typically a "quiet period" through to the municipal election.

Formal nominations open for all candidates August 30, and close Sept 9. Most candidates declare their intent to run much earlier, allowing us to identify most by mid-June.

DISCUSSION

While most current Councillors are seeking re-election, there may be new members of City Council who will be voting on VPL's operating budget in early 2023. To provide an opportunity for Trustees to share VPL's strategic plan and priorities with all candidates, staff have historically prepared materials for Trustees and facilitated an open house for all civic candidates.

Proposed approach:

Trustees are encouraged to continue meeting with their Council liaisons as available, recognizing there will be limited availability from mid-July through early September.

In preparation for the election process, staff will develop/provide materials for Trustees to use in their meetings (see proposed timeline in Appendix):

- A list and brief overview of Mayoral and Council candidates
- Key messages for Trustees in speaking with candidates (highlighting value, alignment with civic priorities, budget requests/implications of not funding)
- Leave behind document (summarizing VPL's priorities and requests)
- VPL annual report

An approach similar to the 2018 election is proposed, with an open house on Sept 22 or 23 from 8-9am, inviting all declared candidates (i.e. those running for any of: Mayor, Council, Park Board, or School Board) to hear how VPL is contributing to Vancouver, and to share their priorities. The Board Chair and Chief Librarian & CEO would provide a brief welcome to the group, with the majority of time allocated for candidates to speak with Trustees and senior staff who would be assigned to a number of different displays/stations focused on our key priorities (e.g. fine free service, capital plans, etc).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Election orientation materials will be developed within current staff resources as part of the operating budget.

APPENDIX - Summary of key dates/materials

Date	Event	Materials/support	Action
June 13	CRPD	discuss approach and key dates	Secure rooms
June 22	VPL Board meeting		Confirm approach
July 15		Preliminary candidate profile list	Match up any new trustee liaisons
August 30	Nominations open		
Sept 6	Fall business resumes	Key messages	Send to trustees
Sept 9	Nominations close	Finalize candidate list	Review trustee liaison assignments
			Trustees resume 1:1 meetings with councillors
Sept 12/13	Open house invite	Email invitation	Send email to all candidates
Sept 19/21	CRPD/SFHR		
Thurs Sept 22 or Fri Sept 23	8-9am candidates event followed by optional Central Library tour		
Wed Sept 28	VPL board mtg		
Oct 15	Election day		