



Minutes of the VPL Board Governance Committee Regular Meeting held at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 15, 2020 via video call.

Present: Jennifer Chan
Kurt Heinrich
Zahra Hussein – Joined the meeting at 5:30 pm
Kevin Lowe – Chair
Raji Mangat
John Schaub
Rhonda Sherwood

Staff: Julie Iannacone – Director, Neighbourhood & Youth Services

Recording Secretary: Christina de Castell – Chief Librarian

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:

Committee Chair Lowe acknowledged that we are on the lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to do our work on these unceded territories. He reflected that in the past few days, two people have passed away who have advanced Indigenous rights in the province: Joe Gosnell, a key negotiator of the Nisga'a treaty, and Ronald (Bud) Sparrow from Musqueam Nation, known for advancing Indigenous fishing rights. Kevin noted that it is with all of us to understand Indigenous rights and title as we do our work.

ADMINISTRATION:

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Raji Mangat

THAT the Committee approve the Governance Committee meeting agenda as received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Minutes

The Chief Librarian presented the draft minutes of the meeting held June 15, 2020 for approval by the Committee.

Moved by Rhonda Sherwood

THAT the draft minutes of the meeting held June 15, 2020 be approved as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES & PROCEDURES

3. Policy Rescission

Committee Chair Lowe summarized the purpose of the report and referred to the Chief Librarian for comment. Christina identified that the in-camera policy recommended for rescission appears as a policy from 1994 although it does not align with our current policy approach, and the issues have been incorporated in the Board Procedure Policy over the years. She noted that two items from the policy are addressed in the related report before Governance at this meeting. Jennifer noted that she appreciates that we are going through this process and eliminating duplication. Raji reflected on the evolution of VPL Board policies.

Moved by Jennifer Chan

THAT the Governance Committee recommend that the Board approve the rescission of the In-Camera policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Board Self-Evaluation Survey

Committee Chair Lowe summarized the purpose of the report and referred to the Chief Librarian for comment. Christina noted suggestions are based on previous Board discussion, and that Director Ibey has suggested an additional question about understanding of the role of a governance board. Rhonda noted her appreciation of the streamlining efforts by staff, and that trustees may wish to consider a question about understanding of the Library's responsibilities around protecting freedom of expression. Christina observed that some libraries ask the Board to endorse the CFLA statement on intellectual freedom annually to support trustees in understanding that. John suggested questions around current practice for remote meetings, and Trustees supported this suggestion. Raji noted every year there may be particular issues and learning opportunities and the survey could consider questions related to the year. Kurt inquired about the language shift from assessing others to assessing yourself and trustees discussed the options. Raji noted there would be value in both self-assessment and how trustees perceive the group, as this can

support their engagement. Raji and Jennifer volunteered to work on revisions to the survey questions.

Moved by Rhonda Sherwood

THAT the Committee receive the report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Board Liaison Role

Julie Iannaccone, Director of Neighbourhood & Youth Services, noted the challenges of matching location, availability and interest in the current liaison approach and staff's recommendation to move to a new model as the approach does not meet its intentions. Rhonda supported the change and noted that she visits many branches and yet is often unable to visit the branches she is assigned to. Jennifer also supported the change and appreciates that staff recognize the challenges for trustees and the guilt trustees can feel when they are not able to attend events due to work obligations. She inquired about potential new approaches and expressed interest in monthly schedule and the ability to identify topics of interest. Julie noted the intention is to coordinate through the Executive Assistant and notes there will still sometimes be some last minute requests. Kevin concurred with the recommendation and thanked staff for the report.

Moved by Raji Mangat

THAT the Committee receive the report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. In Camera Best Practices

Committee Chair Lowe summarized the report intended to clarify best practices around in camera, and thanked the CL for highlighting other documents that provide best practices in the report. Christina noted that FIPPA often needs to guide our release of information from in camera, so a process that is considered and gives opportunity for consultation with the VPL Privacy Officer is recommended.

Kevin noted that he likes the idea of having a double check on the agenda at the end of the meeting, and the idea of a regular review provides a level of comfort around regular release. He noted VPL has a fairly extensive history of in camera and asked for staff comment on this. Christina noted that given FIPPA effectively guides the release of past in camera material, she does not recommend a review of historical material due to the staff time involved, and recommends proceeding on a going forward basis. Raji asked how a review

process would affect workload for staff. Christina noted that if the Board is able to review the decisions at the conclusion of each meeting, it will simplify the work of staff in the scheduled six month review, as the release would be of decision items. She noted that at times an item will require further consideration by the Privacy Officer (Director Library Experience) and consultation with legal counsel and this could delay release, so everything that could be released may not be released promptly six months after discussion. Kevin noted Trustees appear to agree on the two suggestions provided in the report to have trustees review decisions at the end of in camera meetings. Jennifer concurred that she would be prepared to implement this as Board Chair and noted that if a decision happens that should have been released right away it probably shouldn't have been in camera so we should be conscious of this if it is occurring.

Moved by Kurt Heinrich

THAT the Committee receive the report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BOARD DEVELOPMENT & RECRUITMENT

7. Board Orientation and Continuing Education

Committee Chair Lowe noted that this report comes every year. Kurt asked the status of the Board budget and Christina noted that while the Board budget was reduced due to COVID and the elimination of in person meetings, funds are available for training and the meeting budget was retained for December. Jennifer noted possibilities for December if we are not meeting in person, and identified that BCLTA could be consulted for available online training. Kevin and Rhonda will discuss this further and Zahra expressed support. Kevin and Zahra shared thoughts on when they joined the Board, recognizing the value of the visits to branch libraries with Julie Iannaccone and their conversations with each other. They noted that buddy system would be helpful for new Trustees, and Kurt supported this idea. Zahra further noted that more assistance is needed for using the Board tablets and agenda packages, and that sitting next to your buddy would be helpful at the first meeting. Kevin noted further training could be discussed for Truth & Reconciliation in addition to the online learning, given the frequency of discussion of related items. Jennifer will consult trustees about interest in a buddy system. Kevin thanked the group for the discussion.

Moved by Raji Mangat

THAT the Committee receive the report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURN

Moved by Zahra Hussein

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Kevin Lowe, Chair

Christina de Castell, Secretary

DRAFT