

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021
5:30 - 7:30pm**

Meeting held via Webex videoconference

Board Present:

Jordan Oye, Chair
Caty Liu, Vice Chair
Chaslynn Gillanders
Danielle Lemon
Denise Hui
Diane Cousar
Robin Leung
Sherine Merhi
Linda McPhail, Council Representative

Staff Present:

Anne Bechard
Iris Lee
Linden Jessome
Mark Ellis
Shaneena Rahman
Victor Lai
Christine McCrea

CUPE 3966 Representative:

Helen Varga

Susan Walters, Chief Librarian and
Secretary to the Board

Regrets:

Bonnie Walker
Elaine Tsi

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED: THAT, the agenda be approved as presented.

R. Leung/D. Lemon.....CARRIED

3. Business Section

(a) Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOVED: THAT, the minutes of the regular meeting of January 27, 2021, be approved as presented.

R. Leung/D. Cousar.....CARRIED

(b) Business Arising

None.

(c) Correspondence

A copy of the correspondence from the Richmond Community Foundation regarding 2020 Distributable Income from Endowment Fund was included for information purposes.

4. Education Session

(a) 2021 Education Session List of Topics

Included for information purposes.

(b) Freedom to Read Week and Intellectual Freedom (C. McCrea)

Freedom to Read Week (FTRW) is an annual event which focuses on freedom of expression and access to information and intellectual freedom. In addition to a posted proclamation from the Mayor supporting FTRW, displays of frequently challenged books are accessible at all library

branches and new for 2021; there is also a digital display on the website for our community to explore.

Library staff always welcome feedback from community and when concerns are raised about a resource or a program, staff engage in dialogue with the customer to better understand the rationale behind the concern to achieve a resolution. When a concern becomes a formalized challenge – there were none in 2020 and overall these have been declining at our library in recent years – there are clear guidelines for staff to follow.

Freedom of the press, online speech and the rise of “disinformation”, increasing intolerance for opposing views and academic freedom are real-world issues that have a profound impact on intellectual freedom. The library will continue to uphold our commitment to educating our community by providing access to a wide range of ideas and opinions; helping the public find accurate, factual and reliable information online; retaining titles that may be offensive to some; and approaching challenges in a respectful and inclusive manner.

5. **Community**

(a) Councillor’s Report

Councillor L. McPhail noted in her report from the February 8, 2021, City Council Meeting that the City of Richmond has proclaimed the month of February, Black History Month. She also shared that Council supported the recommended option to demolish the existing Minoru Aquatic Centre and convert the site back to much needed green park space.

(b) Friends of the Library Report

None.

(c) Summary of Customer Comments

A summary of customer comments was included for information.

6. **Board – Items for Decision and/or Discussion**

(a) Draft 2020 Provincial Public Library Grant Report (PLGR)

S. Walters noted that the Public Library Grant Report is an annual requirement to demonstrate how provincial funding supports library operations. A formal motion is not required, but the support of the Library Board demonstrates their fiduciary responsibility. New for 2020 are two sections: The 2020 Library Technology Grant and Covid-19 and Public Libraries. S. Walters thanked the board for their support of the draft report and noted that their recommendations will be added before the report is submitted by the March 1, 2021, deadline.

(b) 2021 Board Workplan Discussion

Discussion surrounding the board workplan took place. 5 key areas of focus were determined to have priority: board collaboration and development, strategic planning, Governance Committee and policy review, fund development initiatives, and board advocacy. S. Walters will email the board a summary of these priorities so that further discussion at the next meeting can take place to determine actionable steps.

(c) Individual Trustee Training and Development

The board agreed with the recommendation in the report and will connect with L. Jessome if they are interested in registering for workshops or training. Opportunities will be shared on the board blog and via email alerts. Trustees are welcome to email presentation materials, as permitted, to L. Jessome for inclusion on the board blog.

(d) Draft Strategic Goals Monthly Progress Report

S. Walters explained the purpose of the Strategic Goals Monthly Progress Report and sought feedback from the board. Suggested refinements will be made and brought forward to the next meeting.

7. Standing Items

(a) Roundtable Discussion

None.

(b) InterLINK Report

D. Lemon noted that February 23, 2021, was the first board meeting of the year for InterLINK as well as the new trustee orientation. The election of the Chair and Vice-Chair was conducted, the 2021 budget was passed, and the board skills matrix was shared. She also shared that a common theme during the roundtable discussion was staff fatigue given the extraordinary response to the pandemic. The board discussed their appreciation for RPL staff and will further discuss ideas on how to communicate their appreciation. D. Lemon also noted that an alternate from RPL would be welcomed if any trustees are interested.

(c) BCLTA Report

C. Liu noted that February 22, 2021, was the first board meeting of the year and that BCLTA is working with ABCPLD and the Public Libraries Branch on a proposal for a reconciliation and decolonization event scheduled for Spring 2021. The Public Libraries Branch is now under the portfolio of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Libraries Branch and the BC Public Library Partners (ABCPLD, BCLA, BCLTA and BC Co-op) will be creating new relationships with the new Assistant Deputy Minister Tara Faganello and Minister Josie Osborne.

(d) Governance Committee

None.

8. Chief Librarian's Report

The charrette process has concluded for the Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library design concept. Consensus has been reached on the concept design, which incorporates the public feedback and guiding principles established early in the project. The smaller team assigned to the charrette process will be reporting back to the Building Committee on February 25, 2021, to share the outcome with the larger group in advance of the public consultation survey which launches on March 4, 2021, on *LetsTalkRichmond*. There will also be an online Open House on March 11, 2021, and in-person sessions are being scheduled for residents who cannot participate online. Bookmarks promoting public participation are being distributed at the library and the board is also encouraged to advocate for community participation.

The library launched the fine-free initiative for Valentine's Day and it has been very well received by the community. Various media articles related to fine-free initiatives as well as interviews S. Walters participated in have been shared on the board blog.

9. Operations

(a) Collections and Customer Service Delivery

Questions surrounding the report were addressed by S. Rahman and S. Walters.

- (b) Community Development and Service Design
Questions surrounding the report were addressed by A. Bechard. A correction was made to the report to reflect the correct director and filmmaker, Ying Wang.
- (c) Innovation and Learning Development
Provided for information purposes.
- (d) Information Technology Operations
Provided for information purposes.
- (e) Marketing and Public Relations
D. Hui suggested an update to the Freedom to Read page on the library's website for future functionality.

10. Items Included for Information

- (a) 2021 Board Workplan
"Audited Financial Statements for Approval" has been moved to March to align with the audit timeline.
- (b) Not Myself Today
Provided for information purposes.
- (c) Videoconferencing Guidelines
Provided for information purposes.
- (d) PSAB Related Party Transaction Declaration Letter
Forms have been emailed to trustees to complete and return to L. Jessome and V. Lai.

11. Other Business

None.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 31, 2021, at 5:30pm.**

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:08pm.

CHAIR



CHIEF LIBRARIAN

