



Pickering Public Library Board Meeting Minutes

Held February 22, 2018 at 7 pm
In the Central Library Board Room

Attendees: M. Anderson, M. Brenner, I. Cumming, J. Sabean, D. Sharma, R. Coelho, A. Vashisht
Absent: S. Bhatia, S. Sheehy, I. Thomaidis
Staff attending: C. Grant, K. Williams, T. Sinclair
Meeting Commencement Time: 7:05 pm

1. Public Delegations

Library staff have stated that the current book club model is not sustainable - not “fair or equitable” to other community members who might also want to participate - and a new model should be implemented. Richard Szpin and Laura spoke on the topic of the Library book clubs. Laura and Richard attend a book club at the George Ashe Library. Laura stated that she shares her “personal stories based on the books and I would not do this in an open forum. We can share because we know each other.” Richard and Laura would like the current books to be grandfathered and people asked to join from the wait-list as spots become available.

J. Sabean, Library Board Chair, mentioned that the CEO, C. Grant, must stay within policies set by the Board. Operations must be “equitable and fair” at the Library. The Book Clubs are not currently operating in this way. The new model being set by the Library staff is going to be equitable and fair. Space is at a premium at this Library. Other libraries are also dealing with this issue.

M. Brenner mentioned that groups or individuals in the Book Clubs are not discriminating. Space demand is less than the capacity for the real demand. We are trying to achieve a means so others don’t get turned others away from book

clubs in the Library. We need to manage resources so everyone can share the same privileges and opportunities. The Board will be discussing a solution tonight that staff have been working upon. New facilities will be built in the future to solve this problem in the long term. Your voices have been heard and we appreciate community feedback.

I. Cumming mentioned that there are residents want to join and do not have the opportunity to do so. This is not a negative reflection of the current book clubs who would welcome new members. We look to the CEO to recommend solutions.

M. Anderson asked what the book clubs do to promote their club. R. Szpin mentioned that they advertise the Book Club in a newsletter. “The Library moderator finds the new members and they are not responsible for asking others to join. We welcome new members. We don’t have control over the wait list. We want to develop our community.” It was pointed out that the Ajax Public Library has book clubs in their newsletter.

A. Vashisht arrived at 7:30 p.m.

J. Sabean mentioned that both parties value book clubs but the model must change.

2. Approval of Agenda, Disclosure of Interest

No interest was declared.

Motion #15.18

Moved by R. Coelho, Seconded by M. Brenner. **MOTION** THAT the Agenda be adopted as amended.
Carried.

3. Consent Agenda

Motion #16.18

Moved by M. Brenner, Seconded by I. Cumming. **MOTION** THAT the correspondence in the Consent Agenda be received by the Board.
Carried.

4. Board Education (none)

5. Minutes of the Board meeting held January 25, 2018.

Motion #17.18

Moved by M. Anderson, Seconded by R. Coelho. **MOTION** THAT the Minutes of the meeting held January 25, 2018, having been reviewed by each Board Member present at the meeting, be adopted as presented.
Carried.

Motion #18.18

Moved by M. Brenner, Seconded by I. Cumming. **MOTION** THAT the In-Camera minutes of the meeting held January 25, 2018, having been reviewed by each Board Member present at the meeting, be adopted as presented.
Carried.

6. Ends Discussion (none)

7. Staff Reports

7.1 CEO Information Update (distributed)

C. Grant pointed out a partnership with the Pickering Town Centre – Baby and Tot Storytime in the mall. Storytimes are popular in the community due to a mini baby boom and there are often over 70 children in a storytime. The Library values this opportunity to reach out to new members in the community.

The Library has a new children’s space and is in discussion with Pickering Town Centre to make improvements in this area. Staff and community feedback has been positive. This area is safer because it moves young children away from the front door. C. Grant asked Board members to take a moment to look at the new Maker Space which was developed using design thinking. Staff approached the community to ask what they wanted in this space and this reflects their feedback. A Maker Space removes barriers to digital tools.

A RFP (request for proposal) will go out next week to obtain a consultant for the new strategic plan. We are looking for a consultant who can reach the community in innovative new ways.

J. Sabeau asked that the plans for the new Heritage Center be brought to the Library Board.

M. Brenner appreciated the space in the private sector at the mall and pointed out that it this is an innovative method of solving space problems by involving community partners. He toured the Maker Space and talked to students on reading week. Students appreciated computers with current software. He saw students using Collaborative Rooms and doing research using televisions and Apple TV. Students appreciated access to this technology. Noted that we bought the same sewing machine that used to be purchased for schools. We are taking over when schools are ending certain types of training. Library mandates are expanding today.

D. Sharma thanked staff for the new Maker Space and asked that this appreciation be passed onto staff.

7.2 Library Book Clubs (distributed)

C. Grant mentioned that she will be talking about policy that guides her decision making. This is what she is monitored for by the Board. She wants to acknowledge that book clubs are meaningful and she appreciates member feedback. She is not dismissing the fact that book club members see the changes as a significant loss. The CEO must speak to Ends and programming is set within these Ends. This report explains her decision within this context.

Book clubs build community and promote reading. However, the first level End of “equal and to all” is an issue with regard to the current book club model. To meet this end would mean opening up every book club each year to new members and not providing refreshments or ILLOs to everyone who has a book club in the community. The Library cannot meet these requirements. We are responsible for serving all residents. We are not hearing from the other 40,000 members. The Book Clubs are not open to everyone each year. ILLOs are labour intensive so we have created Book club sets. This is in line with other libraries in the province. C. Grant raised the issue in the library community via listserv and ILLO was clearly an issue. Staff need to locate titles across the province and do this for multiple copies and have them arrive at the same time. This current model is a problem from a policy point of view. We are re-thinking this model. Out of respect for existing book clubs, we are informing them one and half years in advance. We are willing to work in consultation with our current book clubs. We do have a deadline of June to share with the community. We can help current books clubs to become self-sufficient – how to book a book club set or order one from another library. We understand that no refreshments will not be a problem. The issue is around space. Understand that Library space is convenient. To fairly provide space there are options – no space for any book clubs, limiting space available and offering it openly and fairly via a lottery, or commit to finding space for everyone who qualifies. C. Grant recommends middle method to be equitable and consistent with Board policy. Cannot recommend grandfathering because it

perpetuates and enshrines inequity. Library staff will ask for additional space from the City to increase book club spots. There are no guarantees of use of public space as needs change over time.

M. Brenner note that recognizes that the Library is independent from the City. He will ask for sharing of resources between City and Library staff. We will open the lines of communication to try and solve this problem.

Monitoring Reports

7.3 EL 3 Staff Treatment (distributed)

R. Coelho provided sufficient evidence that there is no conflict. Nothing to amend.

Motion #19.18

Moved by R. Coelho, Seconded by D. Sharma. **Motion** THAT the Board adopt Monitoring Report EL 3 Staff Treatment as presented and; THAT the Board adopt Policy EL 3 Staff Treatment as presented, the Policy being complete, sound and effective.

Carried.

8. Report of Community Linkage Committee

I. Thomaidis will join the Linkage Committee in 2018. A. Vashisht declined to join the committee.

9. Ownership

9.1 Member Reports

None

9.2 OLA Report

M. Anderson reported that we are very fortunate in Pickering to have support from Council based on what she learned from other Library Boards in Ontario.

J. Sabeau would like to ensure there are funds for Board members to attend OLA next year and recommends that Board members attend next year. M. Brenner recommended that this be put into the Library budget for 2019.

9.3 Report on OLA/ FOPL Advocacy Campaign

C. Grant reported that a lobbyist developed an advocacy campaign that is getting traction across the province. Library Board members have been meeting with their local MPP to request an increase in operational funding from the Province. Requests are made for a return to funding public library levels from 20 years ago, for a digital library to obtain online products such as Stem Village and Lynda.com to develop job skills and for funding designated for school libraries to actually go to school libraries instead of getting diverted at the local level. J. Sabean, C. Grant, and T. Sinclair had visited the office manager for Tracey McCharles to talk about government priorities that the Library meets, such as government access, preschool literacy etc.

M. Brenner mentioned a Council motion being put forward that has been shared with the Board. This motion will recognize the value of local libraries, request reinstatement of adequate funding and increasing funding using the consumer price index. This motion will be sent to all provincial political parties and Durham Region for municipality endorsement across the Region. The Province of Ontario is currently holding Town Halls on planning the next budget and we want to get this motion into the provincial budget process.

J. Sabean expressed appreciation for the Councillors putting forward this motion.

10. Governance

10.1 Board Self Evaluation (distributed at meeting)

S. Sheehy was not present to report.

10.2 BCD 2 Unity of Control

D. Sharma felt that this was straight-forward, and it has been abided by.

Motion #20.18

Moved by D. Sharma, Seconded by I. Cumming. **Motion** THAT the Board adopt Policy BCD 2 Unity of Control, as presented, the Policy being complete, sound and effective; and THAT the Board continue to comply with the Policy.

Carried.

J. Sabean recommended that all policies be reviewed in more depth with the new Board next year.

10.3 GP 1 Global Governance Commitment

Motion #21.18

Moved by D. Sharma, Seconded by R. Coelho. **Motion** THAT the Board adopt Policy GP 1 Global Governance Commitment, as presented/amended, the Policy being complete, sound and effective; and THAT the Board continue to comply with the Policy.

Carried.

11. Board Policy Review

- 11.1 For March 23, 2017 (All members to read):
EL 9 Compensation and Benefits
BCD 3 Accountability of the CEO
GP2 Governing Style

M. Anderson
S. Bhatia
R. Coelho

12. Confidential Matter (none)

13. New Business (none)

14. Board Self Evaluation (distributed at meeting)

15. Date of Next meeting and Adjournment

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday March 22, 2018 at 7 pm in the Central Library Board Room.

Motion #22.18

Moved by I. Thomaidis, Seconded by A. Vashisht. **Motion** THAT the meeting be adjourned.
Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

Signature of Board Secretary

Date

Signature of Library Board Chair

Date

Alternate formats available upon request. Please contact Kathy Williams at kathyw@picnet.org or 905-831-6265 ext. 6251.