



## Minutes of the Regular Meeting September 24, 2025

*The County of Brant Public Library cultivates inclusivity  
and empowers lifelong learning.*

**Date:** September 24, 2025

**Place:** Paris Branch

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**Present:** John Bell, Paula Chorpitta, Susan Eddy, Nathan Etherington, Fred Gladding, Amanda Henderson, Steve Howes, Jennifer Kyle, Kari Raymer Bishop, Marilyn Sewell

**Staff:** Kelly Bernstein, Steph Burchill

**Call to Order:** F. Gladding, in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 7pm.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: J. Kyle

Seconded by: N. Etherington

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

**Carried**

### **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature of**

None

### **Presentation- New Paris Branch Public Consultation Update and Next Steps**

Janna Levitt and Melody Martin of LGA Architectural Partners Inc. presented site studies for 31 Mechanic Street and 199 Grand River Street, as well as prototype concepts for 25 Curtis Avenue and 80 Race Street. The Board also identified 35 Curtis Avenue North as a potential site of interest.

Moved by: S. Howes

Seconded by: J. Bell

THAT from the four options reviewed, the Board drop the two prototype sites and direct LGA to focus on 31 Mechanic Street and 199 Grand River Street, and that 35 Curtis Avenue be added to the list of sites for full assessment.

**Carried**

### **Approval of the Minutes**

Moved by: J. Bell

Seconded by: J. Kyle

THAT the minutes of the June 25, 2025, regular meeting and the minutes of the July 23, 2025, Special meeting be approved as presented.

**Carried**

### **Business Arising**

Nil.

### **Consent Items to be Received – Communications**

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: S. Howes

THAT the September Safety Talk, JHSC Minutes: June 2025, be received.

**Carried**

### **Library Board Development**

N. Etherington thanked Board Members for completing the survey conducted by OLBA.

### **Submissions for Board Development**

F. Gladding reminded Board Members that suggestions for Board Development are encouraged and should be submitted to the Chair or CEO for inclusion in the agenda.

### **Reports**

K. Bernstein presented output measures for June, July and August. Despite traffic and parking issues, circulation and in-person visits continue to rise. Online traffic statistics continue to fluctuate due to changes in provider metrics. Online Community Engagement continues to grow.

Operating budget spending remains on track with no significant variations.

The *Something for Everyone* newsletter highlights upcoming author visits with Joy Fielding and Terry Fallis, two bestselling Canadian authors. Brant Fanfest will feature a *Paranormal Encounters* event with ghost hunters on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

The annual Staff Development Day (SDD), held September 22<sup>nd</sup>, was successful. SDD 2025 focused on excellent communication and interpersonal relationships among co-workers. The Chair attended to present service award certificates to staff for 5, 10 and 20 years of service. The CEO extended thanks on behalf of staff to the Library Board for closing branches on that day to enable all staff to attend.

P. Chorpitta reported updates on behalf of the Facility Committee.

Moved by: J. Bell

Seconded by: S. Eddy

THAT the reports be received as presented.

**Carried**

### **New Business**

K. Bernstein presented the Draft 2026 Operating Budget.

Moved by: M. Howes

Seconded by : J. Bell

THAT the Draft 2026 Operating Budget be approved.

**Carried**

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: P. Chorpitta

THAT the Library Board direct the CEO to prepare further adjustments to the base budget for newcomer and senior programming as discussed.

**Carried**

K. Bernstein presented the Draft 2027-2029 Operating Forecast.

Moved by: J. Bell

Seconded by : N. Etherington

THAT the Draft 2027-2029 Operating Forecast be approved as presented.

**Carried**

K. Bernstein presented the Draft 2026 Capital Budget and 2027-2035 Capital Forecast.

Moved by: J. Bell

Seconded by: J. Kyle

THAT the proposed construction of the St. George Branch be moved to 2032 to be consistent with the proposed development of the community with the feasibility study being moved to correspond with the adjusted date of 4 years.

A friendly amendment from N. Etherington was accepted by the mover:

*WHEREAS the Board is aware that St. George Branch was envisioned to happen in 2020 and is currently at capacity,  
THAT the proposed St. George Branch forecasted schedule be moved to 2032 to be consistent with the proposed development of the community with the feasibility study being moved to correspond with the adjusted date of 4 years.*

**Carried**

K. Raymer Bishop left the meeting at 10:19

Moved by: M. Sewell

Seconded by: N. Etherington

THAT the proposed Glen Morris Branch forecasted schedule be moved to 2028- 2029.

**Carried**

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: J. Bell

THAT the Proposed 2026 Capital Budget and 2027-2035 Capital Forecast be approved as amended.

**Carried**

J. Bell left the meeting at 10:31

K. Bernstein presented the Draft Library Asset Management Plan: Levels of Service.

Moved by: S. Howes

Seconded : P. Chorpitta

THAT the Library Asset Management Plan: Levels of Service be approved as presented.

**Carried**

### **Next Meeting**

October 22, 2025 Paris Branch

### **Adjournment**

S. Howes moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:49pm.

**Meeting adjourned.**