



Minutes of the Regular Meeting May 22, 2024

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

Date: May 22, 2024

Place: St. George Branch

Present: Nathan Etherington, Mike Gatopoulos, Fred Gladding, Amanda Henderson, Steve Howes, Jennifer Kyle, Kari Raymer Bishop, Marilyn Sewell

Regrets: Paula Chorpitta

Staff: Kelly Bernstein, Steph Burchill

Call to Order: F. Gladding in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: M. Sewell

Seconded by: N. Etherington

THAT the agenda be approved with one addition under New Business: N. Etherington presentation on New Build Mathematical Advocacy.

Carried

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature of

None

Guests: Alison Newton

Alison Newton, County CAO shared news of the Class C estimate that has been received from CSL. The Project Team will review, but a first look allows for cautious optimism. Mark Maxwell, with input from K. Bernstein, will submit a report to the Administrative and Operations Committee on June 18th, which will cover costing, business case and grants. Ratification to follow at the June 25th Council Meeting. In response to questions, Alison Newton clarified that changes to the layout and concept design that were approved by Council in June 2023 cannot

be made. Alison Newton stated if the Class C cost estimate had been returned with a significant cost increase discussion and direction would be provided by Council, but that is not where the project sits. F. Gladding noted, on behalf of the Board, that during K. Bernstein's time as project manager significant cost savings were found. Council can be reassured that finding savings is the goal of the CEO and the Board.

The Memorandum of Understanding is currently with K. Bernstein undergoing revisions. Alison Newton shared the goal is to place some structure around the relationship of the County and the Library. Questions coming into focus through the New Main Branch build process will allow for future clear delineation that will cover all new builds and operating relationships. No changes to operations are expected.

Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: M. Gatopoulos

Seconded by: A. Henderson

THAT the minutes of the April 24, 2024 Regular Meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

Business Arising

K. Bernstein shared the Class C estimate is within 1 million of the Class D estimate, which will be 90-95% accurate to construction. CSL will prequalify contractors in July and release tenders in late summer, with results expected by late September and approval by Council in October. The cost of winterizing for 2025 is included in pricing estimates.

The Green Municipal Fund Grant is currently back underway under the lead of BME, after an interruption in progress. Prequalification report may not be ready for June meetings.

The draft MOU is being reviewed by the Library's legal counsel before being returned to the County.

K. Bernstein has met with Mayor David Bailey and looks forward to continuing to connect.

Consent Items to be Received – Communications

Moved by: M. Sewell

Seconded by: M. Gatopoulos

THAT the May Safety Talk, JHSC Minutes: April 2024 be received.

Carried

Library Board Development

Deferred due to time limitations.

Submissions for Board Development

F. Gladding has requested that submissions for Board Development be deferred for the time being.

Reports

K. Bernstein reported that April was a fantastic month with circulation statistics up across every category. Foot traffic and website visits also showed an increase. Financials are 27% spent at a third of the way through the year. The safety equipment line shows as overspent due to an updated Green Book release and the requirement to purchase new copies.

“Something for Everyone” highlights spring events featuring One Book, One Brant on Saturday, May 25th from 3pm-4pm with Board Member Steve Howes as Master of Ceremonies.

K. Bernstein reported Facility Committee updates.

Moved by: M. Gatopoulos

Seconded by: N. Etherington

THAT the reports be received as presented.

Carried

N. Etherington presented draft changes to the Collections, and Contests policies.

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: S. Howes

THAT the Collections and Contests policies be approved as presented.

Carried

In-Camera Session

Moved by: M. Sewell

Seconded by: M. Gatopoulos

THAT the Library Board convene in camera to discuss personnel matters: CEO Review Update.

K. Bernstein and S. Burchill left the meeting.

On a motion by M. Sewell and M. Gatopoulos the Library Board rose from closed session and reconvened the regular meeting.

K. Bernstein and S. Burchill returned to the meeting.

New Business

Report on Development Charges and 2024 Estimates was presented by K. Bernstein, including an explanation of the DC planning and calculation process. In response to questions, K. Bernstein clarified that costs for heritage restoration at the Bawcutt Centre are now eligible for DC funding because the space is becoming the public library.

Report on Library Event spaces deferred to the June meeting due to time constraints.

N. Etherington presented on the impact increases to the Canadian Non-Residential Construction Price Index have had on building costs, and suggested reframing the expense of the New Main Branch Library project as a cost savings when inflation is accounted for.

Council Updates

Nil.

Next Meeting

June 26, 2024, 7pm at the Paris Branch.

Adjournment

S. Howes moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30pm.

Meeting adjourned.