



Minutes of the Regular Meeting September 25, 2024

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

Date: September 25, 2024

Place: Scotland-Oakland Branch

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

Regrets: Mike Gatopoulos

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: S. Howes

Seconded by: N. Etherington

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature of

None

Guests: Alison Newton

Alison Newton, County CAO, presented updates on the progress of the new main branch project. In response to Board member questions, Alison indicated that the County's Long-Term Financial Plan would be delivered to Council in advance of the presentation of tender results, to allow Council sufficient time to review the financial and budgetary implications beforehand.

Staff Presentations

Laura Eadie, Program and Outreach Coordinator, presented Social Inclusion Audit results and highlighted work planned for the future.

Ada Caplap, Marketing Coordinator, shared goals and strategies for Library marketing.

Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: M. Sewell

Seconded by: N. Etherington

THAT the minutes of the June 26, 2024 Regular Meeting and the minutes of the September 4, 2024 Special Meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

Business Arising

K. Bernstein provided updates on the new main branch project, including a clarification of some dates and timelines, noting that delays to the Site Plan Approval process have delayed the tender release. Tender results are expected in mid to late November and are projected to be presented to Council for award in December. The Class B estimate has come in \$16,000 higher than the Class C estimate. The heritage restoration estimate has increased by \$750,000, due to the continuing deterioration of the Bawcutt Centre. County and Library staff are working together to submit a grant application to the Green and Inclusive Community Building Fund by October 16th.

Consent Items to be Received – Communications

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: S. Howes

THAT the September Safety Talk, JHSC Minutes: June 2024, Paris Friends of the Library Minutes: May 15, 2024 and September 18, 2024 be received.

Carried

Library Board Development

The Ontario Library Service Virtual Conference: Momentum is upcoming. Board Members are invited to attend Board Member session on Thursday October 24th, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm

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 reported on output measures and financials for June to September, 2024. There was an increase in the usage of children's collections over the summer, and in-person visits to the library continue to grow. Adult program attendance has quadrupled over the same period in 2023. The operating statement shows that 66% of the annual budget has been spent to date, with a projection for a small surplus at the end of the year.

Highlights from the September "Something for Everyone" newsletter include an upcoming author visit with bestseller Shari Lapena on October 18. Brant Fanfest is returning on November 16 for its second year, building on the success of the initial event.

The 2024 Summer Reading Report was shared with the Board. It was a successful summer, and staff had many reasons to celebrate.

K. Bernstein shared a brief overview of 2023 Annual Survey of Public Libraries and our ranking within library comparators.

Moved by: S. Howes

Seconded by: J. Kyle

THAT Board Chair F. Gladding be directed to delegate to Council to present the results of the 2023 Annual Survey Report.

Carried

P. Chorpitta reported Facility Committee updates.

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: J. Kyle

THAT the reports be received as presented.

Carried

New Business

Board members discussed adjusting upcoming meeting dates to accommodate scheduling conflicts.

Moved by: S. Howes

Seconded by: N. Etherington

THAT the next two regular meetings of the County of Brant Public Library Board be moved to Monday October 21, 2024 and Thursday November 28, 2024.

Carried

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: J. Kyle

THAT Board Member M. Gatopoulos be appointed to the Planning Committee.

Carried

Council Updates

J. Kyle and S. Howes shared news and information from Council with the Board.

Next Meeting

Monday October 21, 2024, 7pm at the Glen Morris Branch.

Adjournment

S. Howes moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45pm.

Meeting adjourned.