

VPL BOARD

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Minutes of the VPL Board Meeting held on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at the Level 8 Morris J. Wosk Boardroom, 350 West Georgia St., Vancouver, BC.

Present:	Tim Bottomer		
	Victor Huang		
	Emily Lapper		
	Kevin Lowe	—	Chair
	Melody Ma		
	Raji Mangat	—	Vice Chair
	Karen Spears		
	Ziming Yang		
	Abeer Yusuf		
Absent:	Clr. Peter Meiszner	—	Vancouver City Councillor
	Harlan Pruden		
Management Present:	Christina de Castell	—	Chief Librarian & CEO
	Maryn Ashdown	—	Director, Neighbourhood & Youth Services
	Kay Cahill	—	Director, information Technology & Collections
	Dawn Ibey	—	Director, Central Library & Public Service
	Julia Morrison	—	Director, Corporate Services & CFO
	Carol Nelson	—	Director, Planning & Communication
Absent:	Balwinder Rai	—	Director, Human Resources
Staff:	Patricia Chong	—	Manager, Policy & Planning
	Zoey Peterson	—	Manager, Digital Services
Guests:	Ann Byszcko	—	Manager, Philanthropy, VPL Foundation
	Gary Jarvis	—	Executive Steward, CUPE Local 391
	Scott Jensen	—	Chair, Vancouver Park Board
	Victoria Jung	—	Chair, Vancouver Board of Education
	Jenny Marsh	—	Executive Director, VPL Foundation
	Liza Saayman	—	President, CUPE Local 391
Recording Secretary:	Goretti McLean	—	Acting Executive Assistant

INTRODUCTION

1. Land Acknowledgement and Opening Remarks

Board Chair Kevin Lowe acknowledged that our work takes place on the unceded, ancestral and current lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. Chair Lowe also reflected on the Indigenous flags raised at Stanley Park, reminding all of us to advance Indigenous rights and reconciliation through our work. He acknowledged the upcoming Indigenous History Month in June and that he looks forward to Vancouver Public Library events that will advance our knowledge. In addition, he welcomed Scott Jensen from the Vancouver Park Board.

ADMINISTRATION

2. Consent Agenda - Removal of Items and Approval

Moved by Emily Lapper and seconded by Tim Bottomer

THAT the following Board reports be approved on consent:

- Draft Minutes – May 15, 2023 CRPD Committee Regular Meeting
THAT the Board receive the draft minutes for information.
- Strategic Plan Reporting – Q1 2023
THAT the Board receive the item for information.
- Draft Minutes – May 17, 2023 Governance Committee Regular Meeting
THAT the Board receive the draft minutes for information.
- Draft Minutes – May 17, 2023 SFHR Committee Regular Meeting
THAT the Board receive the draft minutes for information.
- Q1 2023 Quarterly Financial Operating Results
THAT the Board receive the item for information.
- March 31, 2023 – Letter from Ministry of Municipal Affairs to Board Chair Kevin Lowe re: Public Library Grants Award
THAT the Board receive the item for information.
- May 15, 2023 – Letter from VPL Board Chair to Municipal Affairs re: 2023 Public Library Grants Award
THAT the Board receive the item for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Karen Spears and seconded Ziming Yang

THAT the Board approve the regular meeting agenda as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Minutes

The draft minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 22, 2023 were presented to the Board for approval.

Moved by Tim Bottomer and seconded by Victor Huang

THAT the draft minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 22, 2023 be approved as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

➤ **Vancouver School Board**

Vancouver School Board Chair Victoria Jung shared that the Vancouver School Board passed a balanced budget for the first time in 15 years. Many changes were made this year to accommodate the budget and, thanks to the \$3.7 million in government funding, a VSB food program continues to grow and flourish. She also shared information about past and upcoming Indigenous graduations, news of a collaborative event between VPL and the School Board that will involve a joint Asian Authors panel as part of Asian Heritage Month programming, and activities to mark Indigenous Heritage Month.

Trustee Emily Lapper asked staff if there was any other collaboration happening in June for the Summer Reading Club. Director Maryn Ashdown shared details of a program with keynote speaker Angela Anh, who is also an SRC artist and illustrator, that will be speaking via a zoom webinar to kick off the Summer Reading Club.

➤ **Vancouver Park Board**

Scott Jensen, Chair of the Vancouver Park Board, shared his excitement for the upcoming site tour of the new Oakridge site June 13th. Board Chair Kevin Lowe noted the branch will be the largest Vancouver Public Library location outside of the Central Library.

➤ **CUPE Local 391**

President Liza Saayman shared information about union work and meetings with the employer, and their role to represent members, negotiate a contract with the employer, and make sure that our workers have a safe and healthy workplace. In addition, she noted that VPL workers are partners with the Board and employer on achieving the strategic goals of the organization. Board Chair Kevin Lowe thanked President Liza Saayman and agreed that we are absolutely aligned in our goals of creating a great environment for staff and patrons.

➤ **VPL Foundation**

Jenny Marsh, Executive Director of the VPL Foundation, introduced VPL Foundation Manager of Philanthropy Ann Byszcko. Manager Byszcko has been with the Foundation for a year and a half and oversees much of the fundraising. Executive Director Jenny Marsh also shared that over \$250,000 in interest has accrued from the investments made with funds for the Children’s Library Renewal and our endowment. She noted that the cardholder campaign raised undesignated funds that can help with urgent library needs. She also shared a new fundraising campaign coming this spring called Give Back and Pay It Forward. The Foundation hopes to have Vancouverites thinking about how much money they save when using the Library and to consider paying forward.

Emails promoting Rooftop Remix 2023 will go out June 1, and tickets will cost \$50 with a \$15 charitable tax receipt.

ITEM FOR DECISION

5. 2022 Statement of Financial Information (SOFI)

Trustee Tim Bottomer informed trustees that this is our annual statement of financial information, supplied by VPL staff under the Financial Information Act. Trustee Bottomer complimented Director Julia Morrison for her preparation of the extensive and precise report.

Moved by Tim Bottomer and seconded by Raji Mangat

THAT the Board approve the financial statements and schedules included in the 2022 Statement of Financial Information, produced under the Financial Information Act, and that the Chair of the Library Board sign the approval on behalf of the Board.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. 2022 Year End Summary – Reserve for Library Gifts and Grants

Trustee Tim Bottomer shared that Trustees had some questions about process for items that were previously approved by the Board during the Committee meeting. Chief Librarian and CEO Christina de Castell shared additional detail about projects.

Moved by Emily Lapper and seconded by Abeer Yusuf

THAT the Board receive this report for information, and

THAT the Board approve transfers of up to \$775,000 from the general reserve.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Public Participation in Board Meetings Policy

Board Chair Kevin Lowe shared that the proposed policy deals with both public correspondences to the Board and presentations at Board meeting. It establishes that public presentations to our Board meetings are welcomed from residents of Vancouver as well as members of the Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. He also noted that it clarifies that acceptable presentations are for topics that are on the meeting's agenda, and that the Governance Committee asked that language in the policy be welcoming and definitions consistent with other related policies. He noted that accommodations would be made for areas such as translation and Indigenous protocols. Trustee Melody Ma commented on the importance of considering language and translation needs in policy for public participation. Trustees noted that public presentations are permitted at regular public meetings, and not in camera portions of meetings. Trustees discussed the Board Chair's authority to vary the policy terms in order to accommodate the needs of individual presenters and situations, and concluded on revised language: "The Board Chair has discretion to accommodate individual and Board needs in the conduct of the meeting." Trustees considered other issues in consistency both in the terminology and the definitions, and recommended specific changes. Staff agreed to make revisions to the policy as identified in the Board's discussion prior to posting for the public.

Moved by Karen Spears and seconded by Abeer Yusuf

THAT the Board approve the Public Participation at Board Meetings policy as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

8. BCLA Conference

Trustee Karen Spears reflected on her experience at the BCLA Conference and described a few of the presentations she attended, including *Indigenous Library Practices* and a session that included VPL staff member Audrey Wang called *Everything's Fine*. Trustee Spears noted that Audrey demonstrated her respect for patrons and fellow staff members in a very calm, gentle, and compassionate way. Trustee Spears also shared that the presentation by three library directors, *Surviving the Last Three Years*, demonstrated leadership and compassion. She recommended that trustees attend future conferences and thanked Trustee Melody Ma for her work in organizing the BCLA.

Trustee Melody Ma mentioned wonderful presentations delivered by VPL staff including Christina de Castell on Controlled Digital Lending, David Waddell on Libraries and the Climate Crisis, and Audrey Wang for *Everything's Fine*. She suggested similar presentations could be given at future Board Meetings. Board Chair Kevin Lowe encouraged others to

attend these conferences and noted he will discuss presentations at future Board meetings with staff.

ADJOURN

Moved by Melody Ma and seconded by Ziming Yang

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Kevin Lowe, Chair

Christina de Castell, Secretary