

VPL BOARD

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Minutes of the VPL Board Meeting held on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at the Level 8 Morris J. Wosk Boardroom, 350 West Georgia St., Vancouver, BC.

Present:	Victor Huang		
	Emily Lapper		
	Kevin Lowe	—	Chair
	Melody Ma		
	Raji Mangat	—	Vice Chair
	Harlan Pruden		
	Karen Spears		
	Ziming Yang		
Absent:	Tim Bottomer		
	Clr. Peter Meiszner	—	Vancouver City Councillor
	Abeer Yusuf		
Management Present:	Christina de Castell	—	Chief Librarian & CEO
	Jennifer Lee	—	Acting 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
	Balwinder Rai	—	Director, Human Resources
Staff:	David Waddell	—	Acting Manager, Neighbourhood Services
Guests:	Victoria Jung	—	Chair, Vancouver Board of Education
	Sita Kumar	—	Member-at-Large, CUPE Local 391
	Kelsey Reimer	—	Recording Secretary, CUPE Local 391
	Jenny Marsh	—	Executive Director, VPL Foundation
	Jaclyn Tsang	—	Board Member, VPL Foundation
	Darius Maze	—	Chair, Friends of VPL
Recording Secretary:	Chrysalyn Tolentino	—	Executive Assistant

INTRODUCTION

1. Land Acknowledgement

Trustee Harlan Pruden acknowledged that our work takes place on the unceded, ancestral and contemporary lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. Trustee Pruden shared his traditional name and its meaning, and shared that the Community-Based Research Centre organized the 2nd annual Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQIA+ Celebration and Awareness Day on March 20, aligned with the spring equinox. He thanked Board Chair Lowe for attending and also thanked the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh for allowing this celebration to happen in their territories.

ADMINISTRATION

2. Consent Agenda - Removal of Items and Approval

Moved by Harlan Pruden and seconded by Emily Lapper

THAT the following Board reports be approved on consent:

- Removed from In Camera Meeting – Living Wage Decision
THAT the Board receive this for information.
- Draft Minutes – March 13, 2023 CRPD Committee Regular Meeting
THAT the Board receive the draft minutes for information.
- Branch Redevelopment Updates: West End Community Hub and West Point Grey Move
THAT the Board receive the item for information.
- Draft Minutes – March 15, 2023 SFHR Committee Regular Meeting
THAT the Board receive the draft minutes for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Raji Mangat and seconded by Harlan Pruden

THAT the Board approve the regular meeting agenda as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Minutes

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

Moved by Melody Ma and seconded by Harlan Pruden

THAT the draft minutes of the Regular Meeting held February 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 recently approved a new high school elective course on Filipino language to develop understanding of the language and culture, and allow Filipino Canadians to reconnect or preserve their cultural identity and develop inclusiveness and equity.

Trustees asked staff about VPL's multicultural collections, in particular the Filipino language collection, and multilingual programming. Director Cahill noted that staff are consolidating collections by language in branches that have large number of people who speak a particular language in the neighbourhood. Chief Librarian & CEO de Castell noted that staff will begin a review of multilingual services and programming this year to consider gaps in community. Board Chair Lowe expressed interest in a Board report on multilingual collections and programming.

➤ **CUPE 391**

Sita Kumar, Acting President, and Kelsey Reimer, Recording Secretary of CUPE 391 introduced themselves to the Board and provided some background about the CUPE 391 Executive Committee. They noted the Union's key concerns of safety in the workplace and affordable living for their members. They thanked the Board for their commitment to staff especially for advocating for the funding of a social worker position and the conversion of existing branch materials handling positions to public service positions.

➤ **Friends of VPL**

Friends of VPL did not provide a report at this meeting.

➤ **VPL Foundation**

Jenny Marsh, Executive Director of the VPL Foundation, introduced VPL Foundation Board member Jaclyn Tsang. She shared that the Foundation has started inviting the Friends of VPL to join their board meetings and hopes to continue to work with them on fundraising for the Library. Jenny reported that the Provincial government recently approved a \$91K accessibility upgrade grant for Central Library. Trustee Pruden asked about the status of board recruitment. Jenny responded that the Foundation Board has started reviewing their recruitment profile which included asking board members to self-identify to determine gaps. The VPL Foundation Board will start recruiting for new board members at the end of

the year.

ITEM FOR DECISION

5. Provincial Library Grant Report 2022

Karen Spears, Chair of the Community Relations, Planning & Development Committee, introduced the annual report that is submitted to the Provincial Libraries Branch of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs related to services delivered by VPL in 2022 that are partially supported by provincial funding. Board Chair Lowe added that the approval of the Board is a new requirement and for next year, trustees can expect to see this report in February. He thanked staff for a robust report.

Trustees reviewed and sought clarification on some areas of the report. Trustees extended their appreciation to Information Services staff for identifying the need for continued public phone access, after Telus removed the pay phones, as phones are critical infrastructure for people to have access to services that they need. Trustees discussed the value of receiving the information in this report, which they can use in advocacy work.

Moved by Harlan Pruden and seconded by Raji Mangat

THAT the Board approve the 2022 Provincial Library Grant Report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. 2023 Operating Budget – Approved by Council

Chief Librarian & CEO de Castell introduced the report and noted that the Services, Finance & Human Resources Committee recommends that the Board approve the VPL 2023 Operating Budget of \$58,868,739 that includes \$113K of ongoing funding for a new regular full-time internal facing social worker position to provide training and staff skills in crisis prevention, intervention, harassment, and mental health related areas, and \$100K of ongoing funding to convert existing branch materials handling positions to public service positions and required training. Board Chair Lowe noted that the additional funding from the Provincial Government is not shown in this budget, but we will see this reflected in actuals later in the year.

Trustee Ma asked if there will be a formal thank you from the Library Board to City Council for approving the additional budget. Board Chair Lowe asked that trustees reach out to their individual Council liaisons to thank them. He expressed his gratitude and appreciation to City Council for the additional funding and for their support to VPL staff who are facing challenging situations.

Moved by Raji Mangat and seconded by Ziming Yang

THAT the Board receive this report for information, and

THAT the Board approve the Council-approved VPL 2023 Operating Budget of \$58,868,739.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Living Wage Policy Revisions

Chief Librarian & CEO de Castell noted that the report is linked to the decision that has been released from in camera with this meeting. VPL has a Living Wage Employee Board Policy right now and the Services, Finance & Human Resources Committee recommends replacing the Board policy with an administrative policy, and to update the Procurement policy based on the City of Vancouver's amendments. Board Chair Lowe noted that there was a robust discussion at SFHR and the Committee's questions were addressed by staff.

Moved by Ziming Yang and seconded by Harlan Pruden

THAT the Board direct staff to create an administrative Living Wage Employer policy to replace the existing Board policy, and rescind the current Board policy;

THAT the Board direct staff to update the VPL Procurement policy, based on amendments to the City of Vancouver's Procurement policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

8. InterLINK Update

Trustee Karen Spears shared that she attended the first InterLINK Board meeting of the year on March 7 and noted that several board members recognized Trustee Harlan Pruden's work in facilitating a Reconciliation workshop in 2020 that was adapted from the BC Center for Disease Control's curriculum.

ADJOURN

Moved by Harlan Pruden and seconded by Melody Ma

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Kevin Lowe, Chair

Christina de Castell, Secretary