



Minutes of the Regular Meeting December 20, 2023

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

Date: December 20, 2023

Place: Paris Branch

Present: David Bailey, Paula Chorpitta, Nathan Etherington, Mike Gatopoulos, 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 7:02pm.

F. Gladding welcomed new Board member Mike Gatopoulos and invited members to introduce themselves.

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: M. Sewell

Seconded by: P. Chorpitta

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature of

None

Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: J. Kyle

THAT the minutes of the November 22, 2023, regular meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

Business Arising

K. Bernstein provided a verbal update on the New Main Branch. Additional windows have been boarded up to prevent winter damage. Live traps are being monitored to ensure all wildlife have been successfully evacuated. The Steering Group will meet in January to discuss fundraising as local groups have expressed an interest in raising funds. The New Main Branch project is awaiting Council's decision on contracts. Council will provide direction once they have reviewed the County's long term financial plan. Preliminary review shows the New Main Branch will have no impact on the County of Brant's 2024 budget.

Carried

Consent Items to be Received – Communications

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: J. Kyle

THAT the December Safety Talk, JHSC Minutes: November 2023, Paris Friends of the Library Minutes: September 2023, October 2023, November 2023, be received.

Carried

Library Board Development

N. Etherington shared the schedule for the upcoming Ontario Library Board Association Annual Bootcamp. Board members are encouraged to attend. K. Raymer Bishop recommended a podcast called "[Check It Out! The History of Children's Libraries](#)".

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 that, due to normal fluctuations, circulation numbers are slightly down for November, however foot traffic and reference questions are up. People are coming in to use the Branches but borrowing slightly less. Circulation numbers are still showing a net positive over 2022. Staff continue to investigate anomalies in online statistics reporting. Online visits to the Library webpage continue as expected. Program numbers are strong, showing the investment in staff and equipment is providing good returns.

Of note on the monthly financial report: the Provincial Library Operating Grant (PLOG) is arriving much later than expected. Staff development spending is over budget due to many staff catching up on first aid re-certification after a pause during Covid. The Library is on track to end the year with a small budget surplus. Any unspent funds are transferred to the Library's Capital Reserve.

“Something for Everyone” newsletter is advertising winter break programs, highlighting the many opportunities to bring children in for programs during the school break. Naloxone kits have received a soft launch and now are available in branches for distribution. Media releases and inquiries have begun regarding the new harm reduction initiative. The online magazine database Flipster has been updated with many new titles available.

P. Chorpitta reported Facility Committee updates.

M. Sewell reported H.R. Committee updates.

Moved by: P. Chorpitta
Seconded by: J. Kyle
THAT the reports be received.

Carried

New Business

Moved by: S. Howes
Seconded by: A. Henderson
THAT the 2024 Board Meeting Dates and Locations and the 2024 Policy Review Schedule be approved as presented.

Carried

Council Updates

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

Next Meeting

January 26, 2024 at 7pm. Paris Branch.

Adjournment

D. Bailey moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:22pm.

Meeting adjourned.