



## Minutes of the Regular Meeting February 28, 2024

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

**Date:** February 28, 2024

**Place:** Paris Branch

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**Present:** David Bailey, Paula Chorpitta, Nathan Etherington, Mike Gatopoulos, Fred Gladding, Amanda Henderson, Jennifer Kyle, Kari Raymer Bishop, Marilyn Sewell

**Regrets:** Steve Howes

**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: P. Chorpitta

Seconded by: A. Henderson

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

**Carried**

### Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature of

None

### Presentation- Makerspace and Adult Programming 2023

Gery Jermy, Director of Community Innovation shared positive 2023 Programming outcomes, Makerspace development information, and the 2024 Adult Programming goals.

### Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: M. Gatopoulos

Seconded by: M. Sewell

THAT the minutes of the January 24, 2024 Regular Meeting and the minutes of the January 31, 2024 Special Meeting be approved as presented.

**Carried**

### **Business Arising**

K. Bernstein shared New Main Branch fundraising updates. Kate Carter has organized an event with Canadian musician Bob Egan, to be held March 2, 2024 in Paris. Architects DPAI are holding a design workshop with the Steering Group to discuss the historic Opera Hall and a workshop with Library staff to discuss detailed design of office spaces.

M. Gatopoulos shared that he, F. Gladding, and K. Bernstein met with Brant MP Larry Brock and MPP Will Bouma to discuss applicable grants and funding opportunities.

In response to Board member questions, K. Bernstein was unable to provide details on the project timeline and progress. The Board discussed opportunities to improve communication.

D. Bailey and J. Kyle declared a conflict of interest regarding proposed communications with Council.

Moved by: M. Gatopoulos

Seconded by: M. Sewell

THAT the Library Board write a letter to the County of Brant Council requesting a weekly meeting with Library CEO K. Bernstein, a Library Board representative, County of Brant CAO A. Newton, Project Manager M. Maxwell, a County of Brant Council member, and a representative of the Bawcutt Advisory Committee.

**Carried**

D. Bailey left the meeting at 7:25pm.

### **Consent Items to be Received – Communications**

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: P. Chorpitta

THAT the February Safety Talk, JHSC Minutes: January 2024, Paris Friends of the Library Minutes: February 2024, be received.

**Carried**

### **Library Board Development**

F. Gladding highlighted excellent work done by N. Etherington at the OLBA Bootcamp in his role as OLBA Vice President and conference organizer. A. Henderson and P. Chorpitta shared their experiences as attendees. N. Etherington highlighted some problem-solving initiatives

undertaken in his role. Next year's conference will feature the Governance Hub and Board Succession Planning.

### **Submissions for Board Development**

F. Gladding suggested Library Board Members review the Ontario Library Service Governance Hub. <https://www.olservice.ca/gov-hub>

### **Reports**

K. Bernstein highlighted a good start to the year with January 2024 circulation up 15% over 2023 and an increase in both Children's Programming and Adult Programming attendance.

K. Bernstein presented an updated Statement of Operations to December 31, 2023. The provincial Public Library Operating Grant (PLOG) has been received. Some final 2023 invoices are still to be posted. A final update to the 2023 Statement of Operations will be presented at a future Board meeting.

The February "Something for Everyone" newsletter features upcoming Eid and Ramadan programming. Through a partnership with McMaster University, the Library will receive 5,000 pairs of eclipse glasses to distribute.

P. Chorpitta reported Facility Committee updates.

Moved by: J. Kyle

Seconded by: A. Henderson

THAT the reports be received as presented.

**Carried**

The Children's and Youth Services draft policy was presented for approval.

Moved by : N. Etherington

Seconded by: J. Kyle

THAT the Children's and Youth Services policy be approved as presented.

**Carried**

### **New Business**

K. Bernstein presented a progress report on the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan. Excellent progress has been made on Makerspace goals. Approved increases to the staff training budget will allow

the goal of increased staff training to be met in 2024. Further work is needed to achieve Truth and Reconciliation strategic goals and will be prioritized in 2024.

The 2024 Strategic Workplan targets completion of the Valuing Ontario Libraries Toolkit (VOLT) for advocacy and the hiring of consultants to complete a Master Plan.

K. Bernstein presented the draft 2023 Annual Report for approval.

Moved by : N. Etherington

Seconded by: M. Gatopoulos

THAT the Annual Report be approved as presented.

**Carried**

### **Council Updates**

J. Kyle shared Council updates.

### **Next Meeting**

March 27, 2024, 7pm at the Paris Branch.

### **Adjournment**

M. Gatopoulos moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:03pm.

**Meeting adjourned.**