

Minutes
SSIPLA Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, June 15 at 9 am via ZOOM

Present: Judy Nurse (Chair), Adrian Wright (Vice-Chair and Treasurer), Gary Holman (CRD Director), Peter Freeman, Lavonne Leong, Christie Roome, Garth Hendren, Sally John, Anne Zeller, Gary Kahne, Karen Hudson (Library Director), Christine Arpita (Recording Secretary)

1. **Call to Order:** 9:02 a.m. Judy
Christie
 - A. Acknowledgement of Indigenous land: *I acknowledge that we are on the shared, traditional and unceded territories of the Hul'qumi'num and SENĆOŦEN speaking peoples.*
Christie reminded the Board that the purpose of the acknowledgement was to have a thoughtful moment and to reflect on the connections of ourselves and ancestors to place. She recommended <http://native-land.ca> and the book "Johnny Appleseed." Judy mentioned the book "Challenging Racist "British Columbia": 150 Years and Counting."
Judy
 - B. Library Vision Statement: *Where all can learn, discover, explore and connect in a welcoming environment.*
Judy noted that the Board should work on the Vision, Mission, and Values before the fall strategic plan session.
2. **Approval of Agenda** Judy

Karen added the BC Library Grant to Correspondence.

 - ♦ *Moved by Garth, Seconded by Peter:
That the agenda be accepted as amended. Approved.* Motion
3. **Consent Agenda**
 - A. Previous minutes
 - a. May 18, 2021 – Circulated
 - B. Committee and Other Reports
 - a. Executive – Circulated
 - b. Board Development – Circulated
 - c. Long-Term Planning – Circulated
 - d. Chief Librarian's Report – Circulated

Judy provided two small changes to the Board Development Committee minutes in the consent agenda.

 - ♦ *Moved by Anne, Seconded by Gary K:
That the items of the consent agenda be approved as amended. Approved.* Motion
4. **Finance Committee** Adrian
 - A. Finance Committee Report – Attached
 - B. 2022 Budget – for review only. Motion to approve at July Board Meeting
Adrian gave an overview of the draft 2022 budget with the following highlights:
 - CRD requisition is the main revenue for the library and the finance committee suggested increase of 10%. One loan for the library land

matures in 2021 so there may be an additional amount available for library use.

- The wording for the full requisition was provided, but historically the Library has not received the full requisition because of the CRD not wanting the tax burden on local property owners.
- BC, Federal and Specific grants were explained.
- A place holder of \$8650 for Strategic Initiatives which may come out of the fall Strategic Planning was added to the programs expense.
- Staffing expense increase is due to a 4% increase to staff, more hours for the Information Technician, and a higher rate of pay to attract a good candidate for the Library Technician. As key volunteers resign and leave, it is necessary to replace them with paid staff.
- The budget will be approved in July and Gary H. will take it to the CRD.
- Gary Holman will meet with the Finance Committee to discuss the 2022 budget.
- Gary K asked for page numbers of the related schedules on the summary page of the draft budget.

5. **A Library Minute**

Karen

Reconciliation Reading Circle:

Starting in October of 2019, this inspiring program has continued bi-monthly for 1 ½ years. It is led by two local indigenous women and has 15-20 participants. First Nations Reconciliation is a strategic priority of the CRD. Indigenous speakers receive an honorarium, part of the program's 2022 budget.

6. **Correspondence**

Karen

Karen reported that the Library will receive \$52,000 from the BC government this month. This amount has remained static for about 14 years. The BC libraries and partners continue to advocate for more funding from the provincial government.

7. **CRD Director's Report**

Gary
Holman

Gary spoke to the following highlights:

- The CRD's 2022 Budget discussions are commencing and CRD provisionally approves the budget in the late fall.
- Parks and Recreation have agreed in principle to negotiate a 5-year lease with School District 64 for the Middle School building. The possibility of using the space for CRD offices will be explored if the length of tenure is sufficiently long. An increase in the requisition will likely be necessary to take over the building. Eventually requests for proposals from community groups for space will be initiated.
- Other opportunities are arising, including the possible acquisition of land in the Maxwell park vicinity.

8. **Other Business**

A. Library Opening Plans

Karen

- July 5 – the library will open from 10 am – 4 pm Monday through Friday. 10 am – 3 pm Saturday.
- September 7 – the library will be open to 5 pm Monday through Friday. Open to 3 pm on Saturday. On a trial basis, the library will open one hour earlier at 9 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays and there will be three volunteer shifts a day on those days.

9. **Board Discussion Point**

Discussion

Censorship vs. Freedom of Speech – What do we need to know? Do we have policies?

Gary K. started the discussion by mentioning the CBC article where the Pride organization in Halifax cut ties with the local library due to that library carrying a particular book that was viewed as transphobic by the Pride community. The Canadian Federation of Library Associations has policy which discusses human rights and intellectual freedom and encourages access to a full range of views and opinions.

Peter asked if the library policy is broad enough to include titles that may be controversial. He suggested that titles in the collection that may give inaccurate information be supplemented by an information sheet which explains the basis of that view and why it may be biased. Karen replied that the library does not label books with qualifiers, according to our policy.

Christie suggested that the library not be supportive of censorship, but support rights and safety of the community that the library serves. She emphasized the importance of diversity in the collection committees, or at least contacting key stakeholders in the community that would help to curate what the community needs and wants. (This was done with the Library's recent BIPOC collection project.)

Garth mentioned that committee chooses titles for the collection and is dependent on the point of view of the committee members.

Anne suggested that there be no titles in the collection which incite harm or violence, whether it be political or medical.

Lavonne pointed out the difference between censorship and curation. The internet is the main source of information; however, it is the role of the library to curate as it is not possible to have all viewpoints.

Karen pointed out Operational Policy 2.3 and Appendix G – the Canadian Federation of Library Associations' position on Intellectual freedom. She described an issue with Vancouver Public Library who allowed an author to rent space and speak, resulting in the alienation of the Pride Parade organizers. Our library should have clear policy in regard to programs as well as collection. She wrapped up by describing a recent challenging situation with a patron who was protesting outside during the recent residential school memorial and how it was resolved.

Key points:

- Curation, not censorship
- Diversity in the collection committees to meet the needs of the community

Next Steps:

- Need to develop policy around programming, taking cultural appropriation into account.

10. **Adjourned** – 10:30 a.m.

Judy reminded the Board about the staff appreciation event on June 22.

11. **Next Regularly scheduled meeting**

Tuesday, July 20, 9 a.m. Zoom