

**FORT ERIE PUBLIC LIBRARY
 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
 CENTENNIAL BRANCH BOARDROOM
 MINUTES
 January 17, 2023**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT
Ken Burden	
Nick Dubanow	
Larry Graber	
Gerard McCutcheon	
Terry Moore	
Barb Ruegg	
STAFF PRESENT	GUESTS PRESENTS
Craig Shufelt, CEO	
DELEGATES PRESENT	
AUDIENCE – NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE	
0	

The meeting was brought to order by the Chair at approximately 4:01 p.m. The Chair acknowledged that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishnaabe. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the lands protected by the “Dish With One Spoon” wampum agreement. This gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples who continue to live here. This acknowledgement reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

Before moving into the approval of the agenda, there was a brief presentation made by Ann McLaughlin on behalf of the Fort Erie Friends of the Library. Ms McLaughlin told the Board that the Friends had run a campaign to raise funds for the library as part of Giving Tuesday and had raised about \$2,000, well over their target amount. A cheque was presented to the Board, and the Chair made some brief remarks thanking the Friends for all of their work.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1.1 Approval of Agenda

23-001 Moved by: Larry Graber
 Seconded by: Ken Burden

That the Agenda of the January 17, 2023 Regular Board Meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

3. DELEGATIONS

3.1 Stephanie Kelley - Library programming

Ms Kelley introduced herself to the Board as a resident of Ridgeway and a library user. She stated that she had contacted the Community Engagement Librarian about offering to run a program at the library, and initially received an enthusiastic response. She then explained via email that she wanted to offer a Christian-based storytime as a library program. After sending this explanation, she did not receive a response despite several attempts to reach the Community Engagement Librarian. She then forwarded her previous emails to the CEO with a request for a response.

The CEO responded to Ms Kelley stating that the library would not be willing to present her program as a library-affiliated program due to the religious nature. He explained that the library would not offer storytimes related to any religion so as to not be seen as promoting the beliefs of any one group over another, or belittling any group's beliefs. He offered instead free use of the library meeting space for Ms Kelley to use for her program. After speaking someone at the Town of Fort Erie, Ms Kelley requested to speak as a delegation to share her views on the library's decision.

In speaking to the Board, Ms Kelley stated that she believes the library should be open to offering a Christian-based storytime, and that if other groups inquired as to why their particular religion or beliefs did not have the same outlet, that they could offer their own program. She also stated that the library has offered what she considers to be religious programming in the past (eg. Egyptian mythology) or programming related to groups covered under the same Charter area as religion (eg. LGBTQ+ book club).

When asked by Ms Kelley why a faith-based program could not be presented as a library program, the Board Chair explained that the library falls under the umbrella of the Town. The Board Chair asked for

further details about what Ms Kelley was hoping to achieve by appealing to the Board, and she explained that she just wanted to be able to present her program with the backing of the library.

After discussion, the Board reiterated their position that the program would not be offered as a library program, but encouraged Ms Kelley instead to utilize library programming space to conduct the program independently. She indicated that she would accept this offer to begin running a program using library space, at least initially.

The CEO indicated that he would work with Ms Kelley on finding dates and times when the program could utilize library meeting space. Ms Kelley thanked the Board for allowing her to speak.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Election of Officers that usually takes place in January will be postponed for at least one month.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- 5.1 Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting, November 15, 2022
- 5.2 Report # FIN-23-001: Confirmation of Accounts
- 5.3 Report # CEO-23-001: Circulation for December 2022
- 5.4 Friends of the Library Minutes: November 8, 2022

23-002 Moved by: Nick Dubanow
Seconded by: Terry Moore

That Consent Agenda Items 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 of the January 17, 2023 Regular Board Meeting be approved as recommended.

Carried

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

None.

7. ACTIVITY REPORT

7.1 Library Activity Report # CEOACT-23-001

23-003 Moved by: Ken Burden
Seconded by: Terry Moore

That the Fort Erie Public Library Board adopts the Library Activity Report # CEOACT: 23-001, January 17, 2023.

Carried

A copy of Report # CEOACT-23-001 was circulated to Board members for information. There was no business arising from the report.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Report # CEO-23-002: Board Legacy Document

The Chair of the Library Board discussed the Board Legacy Document that had been sent to Board members in advance of the meeting. The draft document was discussed, and the Board Chair indicated that any additional ideas or input should be directed to him so that he might add them to the existing document.

The legacy document will be brought forward as Business Arising at the next meeting.

8.2 Report # CEO-23-003: 2023 Library Staff Training Plan

23-004 Moved by: Barb Ruegg
 Seconded by: Larry Graber

That the Fort Erie Public Library approved the 2023 Library Staff Training Plan as presented.

Carried

A copy of the 2023 staff training plan was shared with the Board as part of the Board package. The CEO reviewed the plan with respect to specific positions and training needs, including training plans for specific positions and staff members. The current plan will included more travel, now that in-person conferences have returned post-pandemic.

9. POLICY AND BY-LAWS

None.

10. ENQUIRIES BY MEMBERS

11. MEETINGS

11.1 Regular Meeting of the Board

Tuesday, February 15, 2022
4:00 p.m. Centennial Branch

12. CLOSED SESSION

None.

13. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, the Chair of the Board declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:27 p.m.

The undersigned have reviewed the unapproved Minutes of the January 17, 2023 Regular Board Meeting in preparation for distribution to the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie.

Jerry McCutcheon, Chair

Craig Shufelt, CEO