



Minutes of the VPL Board Community Relations, Planning & Development Committee Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Level 8 Boardroom at 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C.

Present: Jennifer Chan
Kurt Heinrich – Chair
Kevin Lowe
Harlan Pruden
Abeer Yusuf

Absent: Rebecca Jules

Management

Present: Christina de Castell – Chief Librarian
Kay Cahill – Director, Collections & Technology
Julie Iannacone – Director, Neighbourhood & Youth Services
Dawn Ibey – Director, Library Experience
Julia Morrison – Director, Corporate Services & Facilities
Carol Nelson – Director, Planning & Communications

Guest: Tanya Ferry – CUPE 391

Recording Secretary: Chrysalyn Tolentino – Executive Assistant

ADMINISTRATION:

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Harlan Pruden

THAT the Committee approve the regular meeting agenda as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Minutes

The Chief Librarian presented the draft minutes of the Regular Meeting November 18, 2019 for approval by the Committee.

Moved by Abeer Yusuf

THAT the draft minutes of Regular Meeting held November 18, 2019 be approved as received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

3. Law Reform Advocacy

The Chief Librarian presented the draft report that includes possible approaches for advocating to better protect equity-seeking groups. The Committee discussed the three options presented by staff and noted the value of an approach that includes study and consultation around the issue with organizations that support LGBTQ2+ communities in Vancouver by VPL staff, so that we can collectively explore ideas. They agreed that following that, the Board could then call on politicians to explore ways to reduce discrimination and increase understanding with the full breadth of mechanisms available to government, including the potential for law reform. They preferred this approach to initiating the request at an early stage, prior to consultation. Committee members identified opportunities to expand the initial consultation with legal experts who consider human rights and freedom of expression, and to engage others both locally and nationally, including other library organizations. The Committee also noted that VPL is in a good position to share the concerns that we have heard, but we are not the legislators who can best identify the full scope of solutions.

Moved by Kevin Lowe

That the Community Relations, Planning and Development (CRPD) Committee receive the report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Trans Inclusion Action Plan Update

The Chief Librarian presented a report that provides interim progress towards creating an action plan for including the Trans, Gender Diverse and Two-Spirit Inclusion in the 2020-2023 VPL Operating Plan. She noted that some actions have been initiated including restricting public facing event rentals to the lower level conference centre rooms and maintaining rooms inside the Central Library for library programs and private events; and that a public program titled "*Hate Speech, Freedom of Expression, and Transgender Human Rights*" is scheduled for March 26. Staff continue to seek other public program opportunities. The Committee identified opportunities to discuss VPL's governance structure further, such as the use of advisory groups linked to the Strategic plan, and this will be referred to the Governance Committee for further discussion. They inquired about conversations with local

organizations and the barriers that staff have encountered as a result of the March room booking, as well as opportunities the law reform conversation may present. The Chief Librarian noted a common preference among those she has talked to that their names be confidential.

Moved by Harlan Pruden

That the Community Relations, Planning and Development (CRPD) Committee receive the report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PLANNING

5. VPL Quarterly Progress Report – Q4 2019

Director, Planning & Communications, Carol Nelson presented the VPL Quarterly Progress Report for Q4 2019. This marks the completion of VPL's 2017-2019 strategic plan. Trustees inquired about program attendance, staff training, and incomplete initiatives in organizational strength. Carol added that the new strategic plan for 2020-2023 will be published in March. Trustees expressed their appreciation for all the work on the last strategic plan.

Moved by Abeer Yusuf

That the Community Relations, Planning and Development (CRPD) Committee receive the report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

GOVERNANCE

6. CRPD Terms of Reference

Chief Librarian Christina de Castell presented the Community Relations, Planning & Development Committee Terms of Reference for information. The Terms of Reference were last reviewed in November 2018, and the CRPD Committee recommended removal of the word oversee from item 1, which was approved by the Board in February 2019. No changes were recommended by the Committee during 2019 and the Committee did not identify new areas that require change or clarification.

Moved by Harlan Pruden

That the Community Relations, Planning and Development (CRPD) Committee recommend that the Board adopt the CRPD Terms of Reference.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Committee Meeting Timing

CRPD Chair Heinrich asked that the Committee consider moving the meetings to the third Thursdays of the month. Staff will consult with Trustee Jules about her availability.

ADJOURN

Moved by Harlan Pruden

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m. and moved to in camera as per Board Procedure Policy 7(o)(x) *Negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of an activity, work or facility that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Board, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the Library if they were held in public.*

Kurt Heinrich, Chair

Christina de Castell, Secretary