

Minutes of the VPL Board Governance Committee Regular Meeting held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 via video call.

**Present:** Jennifer Chan  
Kurt Heinrich  
Zahra Hussein  
Kevin Lowe  
Harlan Pruden – Chair  
Rhonda Sherwood  
Karen Spears

**Recording Secretary:** Christina de Castell – Chief Librarian

Committee Chair Pruden acknowledged that our virtual meeting takes place on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. He discussed the use of the term Coast Salish during acknowledgements, noting that local First Nations members usually refer to themselves by their individual Nation's name.

#### **ADMINISTRATION:**

##### **1. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Zahra Hussein

*THAT the Committee approve the Governance Committee meeting agenda as received.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

##### **2. Minutes**

The Chief Librarian presented the draft minutes of the meeting held April 19, 2021 for approval by the Committee.

Moved by Jennifer Chan

*THAT the draft minutes of the meeting held April 19, 2021 be approved as amended.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **BOARD DEVELOPMENT & RECRUITMENT**

### **3. Trustee Recruitment**

Chief Librarian & CEO de Castell provided a report on Trustee Recruitment and the Board Matrix. She shared that City Clerks' recruitment process for volunteers to City Agencies is earlier this year and Council will appoint candidates in November, and shared information about the process. The Committee discussed the recruitment process and agreed to host an information session around October 4 or 5, and to hold a review meeting around October 25. The Committee also discussed the matrix to determine if it continues to represent appropriate considerations for seeking library trustees. Committee Chair Heinrich noted that past experience or engagement with VPL is not included in the matrix and this would be valuable. Chief Librarian & CEO de Castell responded that this is part of the questionnaire provided by the City, and would also be appropriate to add to the Matrix. Trustees considered other qualifications that would be valuable such as legal and financial backgrounds, lived experience of poverty, people of color, LGBTQ2+, immigrants, and Indigenous people. Board Chair Chan noted that additional detail would likely be more helpful for selection and for applicants for the qualifications, rather than the matrix format. The Committee discussed promotion, and Chief Librarian & CEO de Castell shared that VPL will advertise through LinkedIn and other mechanisms, as this was effective last year.

Moved by Kevin Lowe

*THAT the Committee receive the report for information.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **4. Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh Nations participation on the VPL Board**

Vice Chair Lowe noted that the Library Act stipulates that residents and electors of the municipality are the only ones that can apply for the Library Board. We are in the territorial and unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh Nations, therefore there is a systemic barrier and legislative impediment for those local First Nations members to apply to our Board. He noted that he wanted to start a conversation for VPL staff to consider this so that these Nations could participate in our board, and brought forward draft wording for a motion. Chief Librarian & CEO de Castell shared that she had begun work on this in March 2021 as part of considering opportunities to implement UNDRIP by the Library, and has consulted with Mari Martin, Director of the BC Public Libraries Branch on the potential for legislative change. She has also confirmed with the City of Vancouver that Musqueam Indian Band members are electors in Vancouver, therefore, they are eligible to apply in our board. She noted that the Tseil-Waututh and Squamish reserve lands are close to other library systems, and they work more closely with libraries in their areas. Chief Librarian & CEO de Castell also initiated conversations at InterLINK to consider First Nations participation in InterLINK governance, as the regional approach may be more appropriate than being tied to municipalities. Vice Chair Lowe asked that staff further investigate and bring back recommendations at a future meeting. Committee Chair

Heinrich noted that he supports the intention of creating more ways for Indigenous people to engage on a higher level with VPL. However, he noted that staff time is finite and expressed concern about requiring another report from staff through a motion. Chief Librarian & CEO de Castell noted that she considers the Board to have previously provided this direction through the Strategic Plan and its priority on Reconciliation. After discussion, the following motion was raised:

Moved by Kevin Lowe

*THAT the Committee direct VPL staff to bring forward opportunities and options to address barriers, including legislative barriers, for Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh participation in VPL governance.*

**CARRIED**

## **ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES & PROCEDURES**

### **5. VPL Implementation of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

Chief Librarian & CEO de Castell noted that the intention of the report is for the Committee to discuss the principles in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and that are most important for the Library to consider when implementing this declaration. This report will be referred to the next Governance Committee meeting to give the Committee time to consider the questions.

### **6. Board Planning Calendar**

The Annual Board Planning Calendar is updated yearly to assist trustees in understanding activities that they will be expected to participate in each year. Trustees were asked to consider whether any further revisions are needed before the calendar is included in the Trustee Orientation binder for 2022.

Moved by Harlan Pruden

*THAT the Committee recommend that the Board receive the report for information.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

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Harlan Pruden, Chair

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Christina de Castell, Secretary