

MARKHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Regular Meeting

**Minutes of Regular Meeting held on Monday, June 27 2022 7:04 p.m. Virtual Meeting**

Present from Board: Ms. Margaret McGrory, Chair  
Mr. Raymond Chan, Vice-Chair  
Ms. Iqra Awan  
Mr. Edward Choi  
Mr. Ben Hendriks  
Mrs. Pearl Mantell (from 3.1)  
Mrs. Lillian Tolensky  
Mr. Jay Xie

Present from Staff: Mrs. Catherine Biss, CEO & Secretary-Treasurer  
Ms. Andrea Cecchetto, Director, Service Excellence  
Mrs. Diane Macklin, Director, Community Engagement  
Ms. Debbie Walker, Director, Library Strategy & Planning  
Ms. Megan Garza, Senior Manager, Organizational Transformation  
Mrs. Hilary Murphy, Manager, Planning & Reporting  
Mrs. Susan Price, Board Secretary

Regrets: Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton  
Councillor Keith Irish  
Councillor Andrew Keyes  
Mr. David Whetham

1.0 **Call to Order/Approval of Agenda**

Ms. Margaret McGrory, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Moved by Mr. Ben Hendriks  
Seconded by Mr. Raymond Chan

**Resolved that the agenda be approved.**

Carried.

1.1 **Declaration of Conflict of Pecuniary Interest**

None.

1.2 **Delegation**

None.

1.3 **Chair's Remarks**

**CHAIR'S INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

We begin today by acknowledging the traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples and their commitment to stewardship of the land. We acknowledge the communities in circle. The North, West, South and Eastern directions, the Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat, Anishnabeg, Seneca, Chippewa and the current treaty holders Mississaugas of the Credit peoples. We share the

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responsibility with the caretakers of this land to ensure the dish is never empty and to restore relationships that are based on peace, friendship and trust. We are committed to reconciliation, partnership and enhanced understanding.

The Chair asked Directors to introduce any guest staff members present.

Ms. McGrory advised the Board that it has been recommended that we count votes at virtual meetings and asked Members if they are in favor of a motion to keep their hands raised until they can be tallied.

The Chair pointed out that this is the last meeting before summer and asked Board members to advise the Board Secretary if contact information will change and if there are any dates they would be unavailable.

### 2.0 **Approval of Minutes:**

#### 2.1 Library Board Minutes May 30, 2022

Moved by Mrs. Lillian Tolensky  
Seconded by Mr. Jay Xie

**Resolved that the minutes of the May 30, 2022 Library Board Meeting be confirmed.**

Carried.

### 2.2 **Consent Agenda:**

Moved by Mr. Ben Hendriks  
Seconded by Mrs. Lillian Tolensky

**Resolved that the Consent Agenda comprising Agenda items 2.2 to 2.4.5 and the same are hereby approved as written and the CEO of the Library is hereby authorized and directed to take such action that may be necessary to give effect to the recommendations as therein contained:**

#### 2.3 **Declaration of Due Diligence by the CEO**

#### 2.4 **Communication and Correspondence:**

2.4.1 digitaljournal.com: BridgesEDU Scholarships Announces Collaboration with Markham Public Library

<https://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/bridgesedu-scholarships-announces-collaboration-with-markham-public-library>

2.4.2 The Globe and Mail: Why won't Toronto strive for great public buildings?

2.4.3 The Globe and Mail: The 2022 Governor General's medals show sector architecture is not leading the way

2.4.4 blogto.com: Toronto getting workplace sitcom set Parkdale library

<https://www.blogto.com/film/2022/06/toronto-getting-workplace-sitcom-set-parkdale-library/>

2.4.5 The Globe and Mail: Seventy-five towers? In Pickering?

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/toronto/article-seventy-five-towers-in-pickering/>

Carried.

### 3.0 CEO's Highlights:

The Chair called upon the CEO for her comments on the June Highlights. Mrs. Biss noted the following items contained in the report:

- **Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Markham and York University (Markham Campus)**  
Priority areas of collaboration identified in the MOU include Truth and Reconciliation, sustainable initiatives and projects, and collaboration on the development of municipal affordable and rental housing policy and development.
- **Yonge Corridor Study**  
A report entitled “Yonge Corridor Land Use and Built Form Study (Preliminary Step to Secondary Plan) Final Report” went forward to the Development Services Committee on June 13, 2022. The report responds to Council direction following the March 2021 release of the Yonge North Subway Extension (YNSE) Initial Business Case, which recommended advancing subway design and delivery.  
The findings of the Land Use and Built Form Study will be used to inform the upcoming Yonge Street Corridor **Secondary Plan** process, which planning staff anticipate initiating following Council endorsement of the Land Use and Built Form Study i.e. the summer of 2022
- **Co-location Guidelines**  
The CEO noted that the guidelines will be intended to provide organizational readiness in the event opportunities arise for MPL to co-locate with their service providers before the completion of the deferred ILMP projects.
- **Budgeting of Municipal Building Projects**  
Commentary that public sector architecture is not leading the way. Newspaper articles provide insights into challenges of striving for design excellence while also containing project costs on behalf of taxpayers.
- **Markham Reads**  
Annual celebration of books, ideas and community.
- **Evidence of Learning Loss and Related Issues**  
A follow up on previous trend reports and the continuing emergence of research and evidence that documents the educational challenges confronting a generation of children and their families. “Many students fell behind in the pandemic but the youngest ones are hurting most. Learning loss is the least of it.” “Early literacy assessment in Toronto shows large gap based on family income”

There was a question about possible partnerships and co-locations. The Chair commented on the underwhelming analysis of design excellence in public architecture (as per the newspaper architecture critic) due to financial constraints, and what might be done to illustrate the importance/benefits of a high design central library/cultural hub to elevate the stature of the City and provide a destination point that the residents of Markham could be proud of. The CEO noted the current approach to upcoming investment in fulsome community consultation, i.e. bundling the library’s funding with that of Planning to gather current resident and stakeholder data regarding needs and priorities for community facilities in Markham Centre. The community and stakeholder consultation could also raise awareness of and help to identify areas of potential for space sharing, co-location partnerships and co-investment.

Moved by Mr. Raymond Chan  
Seconded by Mr. Jay Xie

**Resolved that the report entitled “CEO’s Highlight’s June 2022” be received.**

Carried.

### 3.1 **Markham Centre Update, June 2022**

Staff presented a comprehensive overview of the report contained in the Board package with a focus on the proposed **Pickering City Centre Project** which is a current example of mall redevelopment. The proposed landmark project reveals a vision for a vibrant, connected and bustling downtown, where municipal delivery, shopping and retail, and residential intensification come together as the heart of the city. Pickering City Centre will see an array of new state-of-the-art buildings and municipal facilities, including a performing arts centre, a relocated and expanded central library, a combined senior and youth centre, residential condominium towers, a hotel and a pedestrian friendly public square. The City Centre project will create a high quality, sustainable community for residents to live, work, play, gather, explore and celebrate.

Moved by Mr. Edward Choi  
Seconded by Mrs. Lillian Tolensky

**Resolved that the report entitled “Markham Centre Update, June 2022” be received.**

Carried.

### 4.0 **Annual Monthly Policy Review** (To be undertaken at the January meeting)

### 5.0 **Internal Monitoring Reports:** (Compliance list of internal monitoring reports and discussion led by members)

### 5.1 **Executive Limitation: EL-2c Budgeting/Forecasting** (Assigned to Mr. Raymond Chan)

Mr. Chan stated that the report relates to the semi-annual update regarding Markham Public Library’s future budget planning. He reviewed the report and was satisfied with the contents. He sent an e-mail to Board members and received no questions or concerns, there were none during the meeting.

The report confirmed that the CEO and MPL’s practices relative to MPL’s Budgeting/Forecasting comply with the requirements of EL-2c policy.

Moved by Mr. Raymond Chan  
Seconded by Mr. Ben Hendriks

**Resolved that the Board receives the report entitled “Internal Monitoring Report: Executive Limitation EL-2c, Budgeting/Forecasting”.**

Carried.

### 5.2 **Executive Limitation: EL-2h Community Relations** (Assigned to Ms. Iqra Awan)

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Ms. Awan reviewed the report EL-2h Community Relations. She sent an e-mail to Board members and did not receive any questions or concerns. There were no questions posed at the meeting.

The report confirmed that the CEO and MPL's practices relative to MPL's Community Relations comply with the requirements of EL-2h policy.

Moved by Ms. Iqra Awan  
Seconded by Mrs. Lillian Tolensky

**Resolved that the report entitled "Internal Monitoring Report: Executive Limitation, EL-2h Community Relations" be received.**

Carried.

5.3 **Executive Limitation: EL-2i Compensation and Benefits**  
(Assigned to Mr. Jay Xie)

Mr. Xie advised that the purpose of this report is to provide the Board with an overview of MPL's practices with regard to employee compensation and benefits.

Mr. Xie reviewed the report in full and found it to be complete and compliant. He contacted the Board and did not receive any questions or concerns and there were none at the meeting.

The report confirmed that the CEO and MPL's practices relative to MPL's Compensation and Benefits comply with the requirements of EL-2i policy.

Moved by Mr. Jay Xie  
Seconded by Mrs. Pearl Mantell

**Resolved that the report entitled "Internal Monitoring Report-Executive Limitation EL-2i, Compensation and Benefits" be received.**

Carried.

5.4 **Executive Limitation: EL-2j Communication and Counsel to the Board (March to May 2022)**  
(Assigned to Mr. Lillian Tolensky)

Mrs. Tolensky reviewed the report EL-2j, Communication & Counsel to the Board (March to May 2022) and found it to be complete and compliant. She did not receive any questions from Board members by e-mail and there were none from the floor.

The report confirmed that the CEO and MPL's practices relative to MPL's Communication and Counsel to the Board comply with the requirements of EL-2j policy.

Moved by Mrs. Lillian Tolensky  
Seconded by Mr. Edward Choi

**Resolved that the report entitled "Internal Monitoring Report: Executive Limitation EL-2j, Communication & Counsel to the Board (March to May 2022)" be received.**

Carried.

6.0 **Ends**  
6.1 **Strategic Plan Update: Deferred to September**

7.0 **Governance:**

7.1 **OLS Update: Margaret McGrory**

Ms. McGrory noted the following items of interest from the OLS Strategic Plan at the OLS Board meeting held on Saturday (June 25).

- OLS has created a Legislative checklist to assist Public Library CEOs and their boards in ensuring awareness and compliance with legislation
- OLS undertook a salary survey of provincial library CEOs with 166 libraries submitting data to the project. A formal report of findings is expected
- In response to the Canadian Federation of Library Associations Truth and Reconciliation Report call to action, OLS engaged the Library Services Centre (LSC) to update colonial subject headings in their library system catalogue.

7.2 **Delegation of Board's Authority over the summer**

Moved by Mrs. Pearl Mantell  
Seconded by Mr. Ben Hendriks

**Resolved that responsibility for all Board decisions over the summer be delegated to the Board Chair in consultation with the Vice-Chair;**

**And that if either the Chair or Vice-Chair cannot be contacted in a reasonable time frame, a designated Board member will be consulted.**

Carried.

8.0 **Ownership Linkage:**

8.1 **Input from Board Members**

One member mentioned signing up and attending a MPL program.

9.0 **Board Advocacy**

10.0 **Education:**

10.1 **Library Board Governance Q&A**

The Chair advised the Board that no clarifications or concerns were received from Board members and no changes to Governance Policies were proposed at this time.

Moved by Mrs. Lillian Tolensky  
Seconded by Mr. Edward Choi

**Resolved that the Board accepts the Board Education item entitled "Library Board Policy Governance Q&A".**

Carried.

### 11.0 **Incidental Information:**

There was some discussion on the timing of returning to “in-person” meetings and the potential for “hybrid” meetings where some Members would attend in person and some would login remotely. At this time the technology is not in place to support hybrid Board meetings and there were concerns expressed that the size of MPL meeting rooms would not readily accommodate social distancing for full in-person Board meetings. Staff will continue to investigate technology for hybrid meetings and also investigate the feasibility of using meeting rooms at the City of Markham.

Moved by Mrs. Pearl Mantell  
Seconded by Mr. Edward Choi

**Resolved that the discussion on Board Meetings for the remainder of 2022 be received and that the Board agrees to continue to meet virtually (by ZOOM) for September, October and November and to revisit at the November 2022 Regular Board Meeting.**

Carried.

### 12.0 **New Business (None)**

### 13.0 **Board Evaluation:**

#### 13.1 **Questionnaire Results: Performance of Individual Board Members**

Moved by Mr. Raymond Chan  
Seconded by Mr. Ben Hendriks

**Resolved that the report entitled “Questionnaire Results: Performance of Individual Board Members” be received.**

Carried.

### 14.0 **In Camera Agenda (None)**

### 15.0 **Adjournment**

Just prior to adjournment the Chair thanked Board members and staff for their diligence in preparing for and participating in the meetings, and wished all present a happy and safe summer break

Moved by Mr. Edward Choi and seconded by Mr. Ben Hendriks that the meeting be adjourned at 8:07 p.m.