



Toronto Public Library Board – Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting Details

Meeting Number: 01

Date: Monday, January 29, 2024

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:36 p.m.

Location: Toronto Reference Library, Boardroom, 789 Yonge Street and
via WebEx

Members Present (in person)

Alim Remtulla (Chair)

Jonathan Hoss (Vice Chair)

Councillor Paul Ainslie

Justice Faith Betty

Amina Mohamed

Soo Wong

Members Present (via WebEx)

Deputy Mayor Amber Morley

Tamara Balan

Regrets

Serda Evren

24-001 Call to Order

Vickery Bowles, City Librarian, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and welcomed all to the meeting.

Vickery recognized that it is important to acknowledge that the land on which Toronto Public Library is located is Indigenous. She indicated this is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Wendat, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Toronto Public Library gratefully acknowledges these Indigenous nations for their guardianship of this land.

Vickery introduced the participants in the meeting before congratulating Councillor Paul Ainslie on being awarded the 2023 OPLA James Bain Medallion for demonstrating outstanding leadership in governing a public library in Ontario. Councillor Ainslie, who is also the Chair of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries Board, was presented with his award at the OLA Awards Gala on January 25, 2024.

24-002 Election of the Chair of the Board

Vickery Bowles called for nominations for the Chair of the Toronto Public Library Board.

Moved by Jonathan Hoss, seconded by Justice Faith Betty:

That:

1. *Alim Remtulla be nominated for Chair.*

Carried

Alim Remtulla agreed to stand for election.

There being no further nominations, it was:

Moved by Justice Faith Betty, seconded by Councillor Paul Ainslie:

That:

1. *nominations be closed.*

Carried

Vickery Bowles declared Alim Remtulla duly re-elected Chair of the Toronto Public Library Board by acclamation.

Alim Remtulla assumed the Chair.

24-003 Election of Vice Chair of the Board

Alim Remtulla called for nominations for the Vice Chair of the Toronto Public Library Board.

Moved by Amina Mohamed, ***seconded by*** Soo Wong:

That:

1. *Jonathan Hoss be nominated for Vice Chair.*

Carried

Jonathan Hoss agreed to stand for election.

There being no further nominations, it was:

Moved by Justice Faith Betty, ***seconded by*** Soo Wong:

That:

1. *nominations be closed.*

Carried

Alim Remtulla declared Jonathan Hoss duly re-elected Vice Chair of the Toronto Public Library Board.

24-004 Selection of Committee Members, Board Representatives and Association Members – 2024

Moved by Amina Mohamed, **seconded by** Councillor Paul Ainslie:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. appoints Amina Mohamed to the City Librarian's Performance Review Committee;
2. appoints Amina Mohamed to the role of Board Liaison to Youth Advisors;
3. appoints Justice Faith Betty and Councillor Amber Morley to the Naming Committee;
4. appoints Serda Evren to the Toronto Public Library Foundation Board; and
5. appoints Jonathan Hoss to the Board of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries.

Carried

24-005 Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

There were no *Declarations of Conflicts of Interest* by members of the Library Board at the January 29, 2024 meeting.

24-006 Approval of Agenda

Moved by Jonathan Hoss, **seconded by** Amina Mohamed:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. approves the agenda.

Carried

24-007 Confirmation of December 04, 2023 Toronto Public Library Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by Jonathan Hoss, **seconded by** Justice Faith Betty:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. confirms the minutes of the December 04, 2023 Toronto Public Library Board meeting.

Carried

24-008 Confirmation of December 04, 2023 Toronto Public Library Board Closed Meeting Minutes

Moved by Councillor Paul Ainslie, **seconded by** Justice Faith Betty:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. confirms the minutes of the December 04, 2023 Toronto Public Library Board closed meeting.

Carried

24-009 Confirmation of January 11, 2024 Strategic Planning Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes were reviewed by Strategic Planning Steering Committee members only.

Moved by Jonathan Hoss, **seconded by** Amina Mohamed:

That the Strategic Planning Steering Committee:

1. confirms the minutes of the January 11, 2024 Strategic Planning Steering Committee meeting.

Carried

24-010 Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Moved by Soo Wong, **seconded by** Councillor Paul Ainslie:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. approves the consent agenda.

Carried

24-011 Business Arising from the Minutes

There were no *Business Arising from the Minutes* items at the January 29, 2024 meeting.

24-012 City Librarian's Report (*Received by Consent*)

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. receives the City Librarian's Report for information.

Carried

24-013 Communications

There were no *Communications* items at the January 29, 2024 meeting.

Carried

Deputy Mayor Amber Morley left the meeting.

24-014 Presentations

Alim Remtulla introduced Murray Teitel, who asked to address the Board about TPL programming following an event that took place as part of TPL's What's At Stake intellectual freedom series. Exercising his discretion as Chair of the Board, Alim approved Mr. Teitel's request to depute to the Board about a topic that was not on the January 29, 2024 Library Board meeting agenda and granted 10 minutes for his presentation. Mr. Teitel's allotted time was extended by five minutes, again at the discretion of the Chair, to allow him to finish his presentation.

Murray Teitel expressed his concerns about the reported personal views of the speaker involved in the TPL event and requested that TPL remove the video of the session from its website because he believed it contains anti-Semitic content.

Vickery Bowles explained that Mr. Teitel had been sent the request for reconsideration form, as per the Library's policy, to escalate his concerns about the video for formal review.

Alim Remtulla made it clear that the Library stands against all forms of hate, in particular racism and discrimination. He added that the Library is also a safe space for people to share a diversity of thought, ideas and opinions, and reiterated the process for reviewing content for reconsideration, as per the Library's policies.

Moved by Jonathan Hoss, seconded by Amina Mohamed:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. *receives the presentation from Murray Teitel for information.*

Carried

24-015 TPL Board Education – Research & Reference and Special Collections Vision and Action Plan

Alim introduced Dov Goldstein from Lord Cultural Resources and Chris Ellis from MASS LBP, who supported TPL in the creation of a Cultural Plan for its Research and Reference (R&R) Tier locations, the Toronto Reference Library and North York Central Library, and for Special Collections. Together, Lord Cultural Resources and MASS LBP conducted extensive research and consultation with the public and TPL staff, and provided a summary of their findings for the Library Board. They shared how this research fed into their March 2023 Cultural Plan report, which includes an overview of goals and recommendations to support the Research and Reference Tier locations and Special Collections at TPL and to be considered for incorporation into TPL's next strategic plan

Goals of the Cultural Plan:

1. Positioning Toronto Reference Library as Canada's premier Public Research Library and the hub for cultural and research activity in the City;
2. Creating greater awareness of the many offerings of the R&R Tier and Special Collections;
3. Elevating North York Central Library; and
4. Creating Greater Access to and Relevance of the Special Collections.

Moved by Amina Mohamed, seconded by Soo Wong:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. *receives the Research & Reference and Special Collections Vision and Action Plan presentation for information.*

Carried

Items for Action

24-016 Strategic Planning Steering Committee: Strategic Plan 2025-2029: Environmental Scan Focus Areas and Consultation Plan

Amina Mohamed, Committee Chair, Strategic Planning Steering Committee, outlined highlights from the Committee's first meeting resulting in recommendations to the Board in the areas of focus for the environmental scan as well as the consultation plan and implementation.

Moved by Justice Faith Betty, **seconded by** Councillor Paul Ainslie:
That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. receives the areas of focus for the environmental scan as outlined in the report for information; and
2. approves the consultation plan and implementation.

Carried

24-017 Toronto Public Library Board – 2024 Meeting Dates Schedule (Approved by Consent)

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. approves the Toronto Public Library Board 2024 meeting dates schedule.

Carried

24-018 Locke Branch Renovation – Award of Contract (Approved by Consent)

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. approves a commitment with Rossclair Contractors Inc., for the renovation of the Locke Branch with a total value of \$5,154,600. [excluding Harmonized Sales Tax (HST)], comprised of:
 - a. an award of construction tender, being the lowest bid, at a cost of \$4,686,000; and
 - b. a contingency of \$468,600.

Carried

Items for Information

24-019 Impact of Technology Services in Ontario Public Libraries: Bridge 2021/2022 Report – Toronto Public Library Results

Shawn Mitchell, Director, Policy, Planning and Performance Management, and Joseph Lalonde, Manager, Data & Analytics, delivered a presentation that reviewed highlights of the report for the Board.

Moved by Soo Wong, **seconded by** Jonathan Hoss:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. receives the Impact of Technology Services in Ontario Public Libraries: Bridge 2021/2022 Report – Toronto Public Library Results report for information.

Carried

24-020 Motion to Extend the Meeting

Moved by Jonathan Hoss, **seconded by** Soo Wong:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. extends the meeting until the completion of the agenda.

Carried

24-021 Safety and Security – Update

Brian Daly, Director, Human Resources and Pam Ryan, Director, Service Development and Innovation, delivered a presentation that reviewed highlights of the report for the Board.

Moved by Amina Mohamed, **seconded by** Justice Faith Betty:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. receives the Safety and Security - Update report for information.

Carried

24-022 2024 Operating Budget – Update (verbal)

Howard Balter, Director, Finance and Treasurer, provided a verbal update on the 2024 Operating Budget for the Board.

Moved by Amina Mohamed, **seconded by** Soo Wong:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. receives the 2024 Operating Budget – Update (verbal) report for information.

Carried

24-023 2024 – 2033 Capital Budget and Plan – Update (verbal)

Howard Balter, Director, Finance and Treasurer, provided a verbal update on the 2024 – 2033 Capital Budget and Plan for the Board.

Moved by Councillor Paul Ainslie, **seconded by** Amina Mohamed:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. receives the 2024 – 2033 Capital Budget and Plan – Update (verbal) report for information.

Carried

24-024 Board Resolutions – Status Report (Received by Consent)

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. receives the Board Resolutions – Status Report for information.

Carried

Closed Meeting

24-025 Closed Meeting

At 8:02 p.m., it was:

Moved by Amina Mohamed, **seconded by** Soo Wong:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. conducts a Closed meeting as the subject matter being considered (Cybersecurity Update - verbal) involves the security of the property of the Board. Public Libraries Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter P. 44, s. 16.1(4).

Carried

At 8:34 p.m., the Board resumed its meeting in public.

24-026 Adoption of Closed Meeting Actions: Cybersecurity Update (verbal)

Moved by Councillor Paul Ainslie, **seconded by** Amina Mohamed:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. Receives the Cybersecurity Update (verbal) report for information;
and
2. approves that the information concerning the Cybersecurity Update not be made public as the subject matter being considered involves the security of the property of the Board. Public Libraries Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter P. 44, s. 16.1(4).

Carried

24-027 Adjournment

Moved by Amina Mohamed, **seconded by** Soo Wong:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. adjourns the January 29, 2024 Toronto Public Library Board meeting.

Carried

The meeting ended at 8:36 p.m.

Signed:_____