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## Toronto Public Library Board – Strategic Planning Steering Committee – Draft Meeting Minutes

### Meeting Details

Meeting Number: 03

Date: Friday, 3 May, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:02 p.m.

Location: Toronto Reference Library, Beeton Hall, 789 Yonge St.

### Members Present

Councillor Paul Ainslie

Amina Mohamed (Committee Chair)

Jonathan Hoss

Anne Maggisano (TPL Foundation Board)

Alim Remtulla

### Regrets

Tamara Balan

### SPSC Call to Order

**24-016** Amina Mohamed, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. and welcomed all to the meeting.

Amina then introduced Shawn Mitchell, Director, Policy, Planning and Performance Management.

Shawn recognized that it is important to acknowledge that the land on which Toronto Public Library is located is Indigenous. He 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.

Shawn then introduced the participants in the meeting.

#### **SPSC Declarations of Conflicts of Interest**

**24-017** There were no *Declarations of Conflicts of Interest* by members of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee.

#### **SPSC Approval of Agenda**

**24-018** *Moved by Anne Maggiano*  
*That the Strategic Planning Steering Committee:*  
1. *approves the agenda.*

*Carried*

#### **SPSC Communications**

**24-019** There were no *Communications* items at the May 03, 2024 meeting.

#### **SPSC Presentations**

**24-020** There were no *Presentations* items at the May 03, 2024 meeting.

#### **Items for Information**

##### **SPSC 24-021**

##### **Strategic Plan 2025-2029: External Consultation Phase One Results and Phase Two Consultation Plan**

Shawn Mitchell introduced Laural Raine, Manager, Strategic Planning, and Mabel Ho, Manager, Strategy Development and Implementation, who delivered a presentation reviewing the external consultation

phase one results and phase two consultation plan and led the Committee through the discussion period of the meeting.

The members provided their input and feedback, which are outlined below. Additionally, [an interactive summary report of the external consultation phase one results](#) was shared with the Committee. Library staff will incorporate the Committee's feedback into the implementation of the second consultation phase.

The questions asked at the session were:

- Is there anything that stood out or surprised you?
- Does this align with your understanding of the challenges that the city is currently facing?
- What unique value can the library add in these focus areas?
- What information should the library gather in the second consultation phase to ensure the library is being responsive to changing community needs in these focus areas?

Steering Committee input and feedback

- Further explore the potential role of libraries in mitigating climate change and promoting sustainable practices;
- Consider the Library's role as a trusted source of information in the context of social cohesion and the erosion of trust in public institutions;
- Consider how to design spaces and offer informal programming for social connection;
- Consider gathering input from newcomers in the second consultation phase;
- Consider how global issues such as climate change, rapidly evolving technology, economic challenges, and geopolitical conflicts impact the development of the Strategic Plan;
- Further explore the opportunity to bring partnerships and services to the Library as a third-party space where people feel welcome;
- Explore the opportunity to tell the Library's story and promote library services through the Strategic Plan and social media channels;

- Continue to set an example and share resources with others. TPL's role as the world's leading library should be a focus of the strategic plan;
- Consider how to sustain growth and scale services that are working well for long-term success, e.g. through the TPL Foundation and partnerships;
- Expanding library use should always be a priority. The overall value of the library benefits from having users from all classes and walks of life;
- TPL is a leader in promoting democracy and civic engagement. Look for partners who share the library's values and goals to amplify this message and strengthen impact;
- While cost of living and well-being are related, they are not always directly connected. Consider separating these issues and focusing on them separately in the second consultation phase;
- The Library can play a critical role in supporting economic resilience and skills development to help alleviate the cost of living crisis;
- Consider macroeconomic context and be aware of where the labour market is going and the opportunity to help people in different areas;
- Advocate for increased funding to enhance technology access; and
- Develop innovative strategies to encourage reading and learning to address literacy gaps.

***Moved by*** Jonathan Hoss

***That the Strategic Planning Steering Committee***

1. *receive the first phase of external consultation results outlined in the report (Attachment 1); and*
2. *approve the focus areas for the second consultation phase resulting from the May 3, 2024 strategy session and recommend it to the Library Board for implementation (Attachment 2).*

***Carried***

**SPSC Adjournment**

**24-022      *Moved by Alim Remtulla***

***That the Strategic Planning Steering Committee:***

**1.      *adjourns the May 03, 2024 meeting.***

***Carried***

The meeting ended at 12:02 p.m.

Signed:\_\_\_\_\_