



Ward 13

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5a.

Councillor Sarah Doucette



October 6, 2014

Chair, Toronto Public Library
C/o The Secretary, Toronto Public Library Board
789 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario, M4W 2G8

Dear Mr. Foderick,

I am writing as a concerned Toronto Public Library Board Member. The length of the Board meeting on September 8, 2014 at Malvern Branch was five hours long and ended at 11 pm. To expect Library staff and Board members to attend a five hour meeting at the end of a work day is unacceptable, especially for Library staff. Board members are able to leave immediately at the end of a meeting, or part way through as some of them did on September 8, but staff is unable to do this no matter how late the meeting runs or how far they have to go to get home because their responsibilities also include clean-up. Then there is the matter of the staff who kept the branch open so the meeting could take place. I do not know the time Library staff started work that day but I know for myself that my first meeting was at 8:30 am and I did not get home until midnight. I personally did not feel comfortable driving home at that late hour after such a long day.

I would like to find out in fact when the staff had started their work day and if they receive over-time pay or lieu hours for hours worked outside their regular schedules.

I feel that our agendas are getting unnecessarily long. There are often items and reports that require in-depth discussions but are not time-sensitive and therefore could be spread out over more than one meeting. The previous Chair, Councillor Paul Ainslie, requested that the agenda have items timed to help move the meetings along. I see this is no longer done and I would like to know why.

Mr. Chair, either you need to work with staff to reduce the agenda items or you need to be more conscious of the speaking and question times. Never before this year, except for a very few exceptions, have these board meetings run so long.

I would like you to report to the board on how you as the chair are going to: 1) control the number of items on the agenda; 2) move the meetings along in a timely fashion and; 3) I request we have the agenda items timed as at the January 2014 meeting.

Yours truly,

Sarah Doucette
City Councillor, Ward 13
Library Board Member

cc: Anne Bailey, Acting City Librarian, City of Toronto
Members, Toronto Public Library Board