



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

Meeting Details

Meeting Number: 05

Date: Tuesday, 12 November, 2024

Time: 4:00 p.m. to 4:40 p.m.

Location: Toronto Reference Library, Executive Boardroom and
Teleconference

Members Present

Amina Mohamed (Committee Chair)

Anne Maggisano (TPL Foundation Board)

Members Present (WebEx)

Councillor Paul Ainslie

Jonathan Hoss

Regrets

Tamara Balan

Alim Remtulla

SPSC Call to Order

24-030 Amina Mohamed, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.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 Reference 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

24-031 There were no *Declarations of Conflicts of Interest* by members of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee.

SPSC Approval of Agenda

24-032 ***Moved by Anne Maggisano***
That the Strategic Planning Steering Committee:
1. *approves the agenda.*

Carried

SPSC Communications

24-033 There were no *Communications* items at the November 12, 2024 meeting.

SPSC Presentations

24-034 There were no *Presentations* items at the November 12, 2024 meeting.

Items for Action

SPSC 24-035

Strategic Plan 2025-2029: Creating connection and belonging for Torontonians to thrive in every neighbourhood

Shawn Mitchell introduced the presenters for this item:

- Moe Hosseini-Ara, Director, Branch Operations and Customer Experience
- Pam Ryan, Director, Service Development and Innovation
- Lisa Radha Vohra, Director, Collections and Membership Services
- Laural Raine, Senior Manager, Strategic Planning, Policy & Evaluation; and
- Mabel Ho, Manager, Strategy Development & Engagement.

Together, they delivered a presentation reviewing TPL's 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, which included priority areas, outcomes, strategic objectives and sample key actions.

Priority areas and outcomes have been refined based on feedback received from the Strategic Planning Steering Committee and Library Board. The priority areas for the Strategic Plan 2025-2029 are:

1. Democracy, civic engagement and social connection
2. Shared community spaces
3. Learning and growth
4. Awareness and availability

The plan will also include a focus on staff within each priority.

The questions asked at the session were:

- Do the objectives and sample key actions clearly reflect the needs and opportunities we've heard in the consultation process?
- What ideas do you have for effectively engaging our diverse audiences — such as staff, residents, community partners, and stakeholders — in the Strategic Plan?

The Steering Committee commended library staff for developing a clear and impactful Strategic Plan that effectively responds to both the

consultation feedback and Toronto's current needs.

The Steering Committee asked questions about the following:

- Whether the priority areas remain relevant given the evolving context since the process began. It was emphasized that they are still crucial. These priorities highlight the continued importance of democracy and civic engagement, the need for upskilling to enhance economic resilience, and the availability of welcoming, inclusive public spaces that foster a sense of belonging among residents.
- Whether the Strategic Plan aligns with the goals of the Toronto Public Library Foundation. The Foundation representatives at the meeting expressed that the plan provides a strong framework for their ongoing work in the community. Foundation staff feel they have been engaged throughout the process and are confident in their ability to continue to collaborate effectively to support and accelerate the initiatives outlined in the new plan.

The Steering Committee suggested the following:

- Leverage online and social media platforms to engage Toronto's evolving, diverse demographic, with a particular focus on youth.
- Build in a structure for regular opportunities to review the Strategic Plan to ensure it remains relevant to changing community needs. While public feedback indicated a desire for the library to continue and expand services, rapid changes in the world require the library to remain adaptable and responsive. This review could be integrated with the presentation of the annual Enterprise Balanced Scorecard and action plan.

Moved by Anne Maggisano:

That the Strategic Planning Steering Committee:

1. *recommends the strategic objectives and sample key actions to the Toronto Public Library Board for approval as outlined in Attachment 2.*

Carried

SPSC Adjournment

24-036

Moved by Anne Maggisano

That the Strategic Planning Steering Committee:

1. *adjourns the November 12, 2024 meeting.*

Carried

The meeting ended at 4:40 p.m.

Signed:_____