

April 26, 2021

To support the Peter Holleley presentation to the April 26, 2021 Toronto Public Library Board meeting in respect to Agenda item #12; [Advocacy Policy \(PDF\)](#):

Greetings, Everyone;

I hope this message finds you and your family well and safe, and as sane as might be!

First, please allow me to congratulate and thank Philippa Williamson and Kristine Weglarz of ITS for preparing a new **“How-to Guide to joining Toronto Public Library Board meetings via WebEx”** and then taking the time and trouble to test it out on me.

Such a guide is obviously essential to making Board meetings “visitor friendly” to increasing numbers of our 3,000,000 Toronto stakeholders but also to allow library gurus from around the world to readily see inside the world’s biggest and best public library system.

The eight pages cover “Joining the meeting (by computer) and “Requesting a call via phone”; we ascertained the need for an essential preliminary “Set up” Section.

Congratulations and thanks to Directors Elizabeth Glass and Linda Hazzan, and Strategic Advisor Emmanuel Maba, for their work on the new **Advocacy Policy** to be presented to and discussed by the Board tonight.

This is a timely and much-needed leadership initiative that will reflect well on our whole 100-branch library system – especially as it plans to tackle pandemic issues and consequences head on! Two things:

- *Please expand the terms of reference to think “outside the box”*; don’t limit input to what librarians think a library could and should do, expand your playing field and methodology to include non-library users and passers-by as new TTC Commissioner Fenton is doing (referenced last month). *Be open to brainstorming to imagine and create ideas that could go viral in our communities*. Enact this policy as a Board Committee that includes at least one of you seven public Members – a Member who’s comfortable in “doing a Fenton” and talking to folk wherever they may be.

- Tonight, at this meeting, I ask Members to please set the ball rolling by discussing the subject matter of this exciting new policy; don’t just rubber-stamp it for staff and go onto your next agenda item. In the 2020 Member Self-Evaluation Results discussed last month, *it was noted that Members want more *discussion* of matters put before them, matters that you feel are important, before you vote on them (and you want to participate in their enactment too)*.

So tonight one-and-all, let’s hear lots of discussion on this important – nay, vital – new initiative!

Please discuss DISCUSS and DISCUSS some more!

Then, PARTICIPATE with public and staff in Advocacy enactments!

Thank you all for your attention.

Best wishes,
Peter Holleley
TPL Customer and Toronto Ratepayer

