



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

10.

Term of Office for Library Board Chair and Vice Chair

Date:	November 21, 2011
To:	Toronto Public Library Board
From:	City Librarian

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with options about the timing of elections for a chair and vice chair. Two options are presented for consideration:

- Option One: conducting an election in January 2012, the first calendar meeting of the Board;
- Option Two: conducting an election in January 2013, the first calendar meeting of 2013, extending the term of the current Chair and Vice Chair to 14 months.

The Board's Procedural By-law sets the term of office for the chair and vice chair as one year or until a successor is appointed. Generally, elections are held annually in January, the first calendar meeting of the Board. In years where a new Board is appointed, as in 2011, the first meeting is interpreted as the first meeting after new Board members, including citizen members, have been appointed by Council. The current Chair and Vice Chair were elected at the Board's first meeting as a newly appointed Board, in October 2011. The Board requested staff to present options for the current terms of the Chair and Vice Chair.

Two options are presented for consideration; Option One follows the schedule proposed in the Procedural By-law with an election in January 2012; Option Two is to hold an election in January 2013 with a term of office of fourteen months for the current Chair and Vice Chair.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Librarian recommends that the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. selects one of the following options:
 - Option One: The Board Chair and Vice Chair serve until an election is held at the first Board meeting of 2012; or
 - Option Two: The Board Chair and Vice Chair serve an extended term of office with the next election held at the first meeting of 2013.

Implementation Points

An election will be conducted for the office of Chair and Vice Chair at either the January 2012 or January 2013 Board meeting; committee membership will also be reviewed using the same time frame chosen as a result of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The recommendation in this report will have no financial impact.

The Director of Finance and Treasurer has reviewed this financial impact statement and is in agreement with it.

DECISION HISTORY

At its October 2011 meeting, the Board requested “the City Librarian to consult on options for the current terms of the Chair and Vice Chair and to report to the Board at the November meeting.”

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Board’s Procedural By-law requires a chair and vice chair be appointed at the first meeting after Council has appointed both councillor and citizen members. In keeping with this requirement, the current Chair and Vice Chair were elected at the Board’s October 2011 meeting, the first meeting of new citizen members. Elections, in subsequent years of the Board’s term, are held at the first meeting of the Board in the calendar year, which is January, as outlined in the By-law.

Holding an election in January 2012 is in keeping with the current Procedural By-law, but could result in a short term of office for the current Chair and Vice Chair. Opting to extend the term of the current Chair and Vice Chair to January 2013 creates a term of office more in keeping with the one-year term outlined in the By-law.

The year 2011 was somewhat atypical as citizen members were not appointed until September, which is later than usual. Past practice has seen citizen appointees made later in the year, typically ranging from March to May in the year following a general municipal election. In those instances, the term of the chair/vice chair was not extended. Instead, the term was from March or May to the following January resulting in seven to nine month terms, depending on when the chair was originally appointed to the Board.

Chairs/vice chairs have also served terms longer than one year with no January election. Typically this occurs at the end of a one-year term when there is a delay in the appointments of the new Board members. Past practice has seen the terms for chairs extend for up to four months beyond one year.

It is not recommended to provide for an alternate length of term, for example, six months, as the two options presented would either maintain or return to the Board's normal election cycle as soon as possible.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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