

Toronto Public Library Board

Meeting No. 3: Tuesday, March 25, 2008, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:25 p.m.

Toronto Reference Library, Beeton Auditorium, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto

Members Present:

Ms. Kathy Gallagher Ross (Chair)
Ms. Eman Ahmed
Mr. Adam Chaleff-Freudenthaler
Mr. Matthew Church
Councillor Janet Davis
Ms. Ann Decter
Ms. Tina Edan
Councillor Chin Lee
Councillor Adam Vaughan
Ms. Kate Wilson

Regrets:

Councillor Paul Ainslie
Mr. Okeima Lawrence (Vice Chair)
Councillor Anthony Perruzza

08-039 Call to Order

Kathy Gallagher Ross called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

08-040 Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Lee, seconded by Councillor Vaughan, and carried:

That the Toronto Public Library Board approves the agenda as revised to:

1. *add Agenda Item #4b – Approval of February 25, 2008 Toronto Public Library Board Closed Meeting Minutes; and*
2. *move the following confidential agenda items to the end of the meeting to avoid disruption in the public portion of the meeting:*
 - *Agenda Item #4b – Approval of February 25, 2008 Toronto Public Library Board Closed Meeting Minutes;*
 - *Agenda Item #11 – Employee and Labour Relations Committee – Employee Benefits After Age 65;*
 - *Agenda Item #12 – Employee and Labour Relations Committee – City of Toronto Settlement with COTAPSAI;*

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Approval of Agenda – continued

- *Agenda Item #13 – City Librarian’s Annual Performance Review;*
- *Agenda Item #16 – Employee and Labour Relations Committee – November Closed Meeting Minutes – Approved.*

08-041 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest by members of the Library Board.

08-042 Approval of February 25, 2008 Toronto Public Library Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by E. Ahmed, seconded by M. Church, and carried:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. *approves the Minutes of the February 25, 2008 Toronto Public Library Board meeting.*

08-043 Business Arising

There were no Business Arising items at the March 25, 2008 meeting.

08-044 Chair’s Report

1. As usual, March Break was a busy time in Library branches. For example, at the Oakwood Village Branch, over 300 people attended the following three programs: a) Magician Mark Lewis; b) Anansi the Spider puppet show; and c) a craft program in collaboration with a community organization called Art Starts. It is gratifying to see that the high quality programming that TPL strives to attain is well received.
2. As part of the Library’s efforts to remain relevant for teens, several March Break programs specifically for teens were provided this year, including workshops on cartooning, drumming and deejaying. One of these programs involved approximately a dozen Youth Advisory Group volunteers congregating at North York Central Library to film ads for the upcoming Teen Summer Reading Club. As part of this initiative, a booklist of favourite teen titles is being compiled. To date, there are approximately 75 titles on the list, all favourites of TPL’s teen volunteers.

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Chair's Report – continued

3. Cliffcrest Branch will reopen on Thursday, April 3 at 12:30 p.m. after a brief closure for relocation. The branch is still in the Cliffcrest Plaza, but in a larger space with 4,900 square feet, up from 2,800 square feet. The branch is designed to provide a bookstore look and feel to promote browsing with front-faced display and lots of recent popular reading and audio-visual materials. The branch will also have additional PCs and wireless Internet access. The additional space has allowed for reading lounges for adults, teens and children, and a public meeting and program room that doubles as quiet study space. Opening day will feature a celebration with refreshments and family entertainment.
4. The second annual June Callwood Lecture on April 25 will feature guest speaker James Lockyer, a lawyer famous for his championing of the wrongfully accused. He is the founding director of the Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted, a national organization that advocates for justice. He has been involved in a number of high profile wrongful conviction cases, including those of Steven Truscott, Guy Paul Morin and David Milgaard. Most recently, he is championing nine people convicted of crimes based in part on the questionable testimony of pathologist Charles Smith. The program will be hosted by broadcast journalist, Linden MacIntyre. Social activist, singer-songwriter Jon Brooks will perform.
5. The most recent Writer-in-Residence program will feature screenwriter Sugith Varughese, who has been writing professionally in Canada for over 25 years. He has extensive screenwriting credits for a wide range of television shows, from *Fraggle Rock*, to the crime drama *Blue Murder*. Mr. Varughese will be accepting manuscripts up until May 2, and meeting with writers up until June 14, when the residency ends. Besides meeting with writers who have submitted scripts, he will host two programs; one for adults and one for teens.
6. The Canada Council Heritage Series called "Foresight" will explore science fiction and speculative writing. The launch, on April 21 at Lillian H. Smith Branch, will be hosted by author and editor, Michael Skeet, and feature a panel discussion among Canadian science fiction authors, including Karl Schroeder. As part of the series, eminent science-fiction author Cory Doctorow will launch his new book, *Little Brother*. This year's heritage series will provide an excellent opportunity to promote the Library's world-renowned Merril Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy. The most recent issue of *Shelf Life* has an article

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Chair's Report – continued

about the Merrill Collection, focusing on the fact that it is now fully catalogued; people around the world can see what is in the collection by viewing the Library's online catalogue.

7. A new exhibit in the TD Gallery called "From Hanga to Manga: The Graphic Art of Japanese Storytelling" features a variety of Japanese art and literary forms. The exhibit, which is part of the Library's Asian Heritage Month celebrations, will begin officially in May.

Moved by A. Decter, seconded by E. Ahmed, and carried:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. receives the Chair's Report for information.

08-045 Presentations

There were no Presentations at the March 25, 2008 meeting.

08-046 Communications

There were no Communications items at the March 25, 2008 meeting.

Items for Approval:**08-047 Scarborough City Centre Branch – Securing Site for New Library**

Moved by A. Chaleff-Freudenthaler, seconded by T. Edan, and carried:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. approves the location of the Scarborough City Centre Branch at 150 Borough Drive subject to the completion of a satisfactory agreement with the City of Toronto; and
2. requests the City of Toronto to continue to include the Toronto Public Library interest in the development plan of the McCowan Precinct until such time as the City Centre plan for the development of a Library at 150 Borough Drive is confirmed.

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08-048 Strategic Plan 2008 – 2011 – Draft Themes and Next Steps

Matthew Church outlined the Phase One process to date conducted by staff and the Board's Strategic Planning Steering Committee to develop the draft themes and goals for the Board's endorsement. He reviewed the next steps in the process that are expected to lead to a draft plan for the Board's approval in September 2008. Matthew expressed appreciation to staff for their efforts in conducting the Phase One portion of the process.

Jane Pyper, Director, Corporate and Service Planning, Policy, Projects and City-wide Services, reviewed the Draft Themes and Goals, and provided information regarding the consultation phase of the strategic planning process.

Adam Chaleff-Freudenthaler requested that the following concepts be added to Attachment 1 for consideration during the public consultation:

- providing more focus and specifics for the youth goal;
- branches acting as neighbourhood hubs through increased partnerships with government and community partners;
- enhancing accessibility of room booking;
- exploring innovative partnership opportunities with public sector agencies in terms of co-location.

Moved by M. Church, seconded by E. Aman, and carried:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. *approves the draft strategic plan themes and goals identified in the Strategic Plan 2008- 2011 – Draft Themes and Next Steps report (Attachment 1) as a framework for public consultation.*

Items for Information:**08-049 Requests for Reconsideration of Library Materials – 2007 Annual Report**

Moved by Councillor Lee, seconded by E. Ahmed, and carried:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. *receives the Requests for Reconsideration of Library Materials – 2007 Annual Report for information.*

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08-050 Toronto Public Library – Employee and Labour Relations Committee November Meeting Minutes – Approved

Moved by A. Chaleff-Freudenthaler, seconded by T. Edan, and carried:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. *receives the Toronto Public Library – Employee and Labour Relations Committee November Meeting Approved Minutes for information.*

08-051 Other Business

There were no Other Business items at the March 25, 2008 meeting.

08-052 Closed Meeting

At 6:35 p.m., it was:

Moved by Councillor Lee, seconded by A. Chaleff-Freudenthaler, and carried:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. *conducts a Closed meeting as the subject matters being considered are labour relations or employee negotiations and personal matters about an identifiable individual.*

At 7:20 p.m. the Board resumed its meeting in public.

Confirmation of Closed Meeting Decisions

08-053 Employee and Labour Relations Committee – Employee Benefits After Age 65

Moved by Councillor Lee, seconded by A. Decter, and carried:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. *adopts the recommendations of the Employee and Labour Relations Committee Attachment 1 and Confidential Attachment 1; and*
2. *authorizes release of the approved confidential recommendations when the matter is resolved.*

08-054 Employee and Labour Relations Committee –City of Toronto Settlement with COTAPSAI

Moved by Councillor Lee, seconded by A. Decter, and carried:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. *adopts the recommendations of the Employee and Labour Relations Committee Attachment 1 and Confidential Attachment 1; and*
2. *authorizes release of the approved confidential recommendations when the matter is resolved.*

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08-055 City Librarian's Annual Performance Review

Moved by Councillor Lee, seconded by A. Decter, and carried:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

- 1. adopts the confidential recommendations concerning the City Librarian's Annual Performance; and*
- 2. recommends that the confidential information concerning the City Librarian's Annual Performance Review not be made public as the subject matter being considered is personal matters about an identifiable individual.*

08-056 Employee and Labour Relations Committee – November Closed Meeting Minutes - Approved

Moved by Councillor Lee, seconded by A. Decter, and carried:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

- 1. receives the Toronto Public Library Employee and Labour Relations Committee November Closed Meeting Approved Minutes for information.*

08-057 Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Lee, seconded by E. Ahmed, and carried:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

- 1. adjourns the March 25, 2008 Toronto Public Library Board meeting.*

The meeting ended at 7:25 p.m.

Signed: _____