



Toronto Public Library Board

Meeting No. 3: Monday, March 29, 2004, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:10 p.m.

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

Members Present:

Mr. Bill Booth (Vice Chair)
Mr. Meyer Brownstone
Councillor Gay Cowbourne
Councillor Janet Davis
Ms. Mizan Ibrahim
Mr. Mark Nightingale
Councillor Karen Stintz

Regrets:

Mr. Rick Goldsmith
Ms. Gillian Mason (Chair)
Councillor Kyle Rae
Councillor Sylvia Watson
Mr. Mitchell Weisberg

04-33 Call to Order

Bill Booth called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting began at 6:24 p.m. when quorum was achieved.

04-34 Approval of Agenda

Moved by M. Brownstone, seconded by Mark Nightingale, and carried:

That:

- (1) the agenda be reordered to ensure a quorum for items requiring approval; and*
- (2) the agenda items for the Closed Meeting be postponed until the April 19, 2003 Closed Meeting of the Toronto Public Library Board.*

04-35 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by members of the Library Board.

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04-36 Approval of February 16, 2004 Toronto Public Library Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by M. Ibrahim, seconded by Councillor Cowbourne, and carried:

That the minutes of the February 16, 2004 Toronto Public Library Board meeting be approved.

Items for Approval:

04-37 Beaches Branch Library – Award of Tender

Moved by M. Ibrahim, seconded by Councillor Cowbourne, and carried:

That the:

- (1) *Toronto Public Library Board award a contract to the lowest bidder, Struct-Con Construction Ltd., for the renovation of the Beaches Branch at a cost of \$1,289,548; and*
- (2) *appropriate staff be authorized and directed to take the necessary actions to give effect hereto.*

04-38 Beaches Branch Library – Closure for Reconstruction

Moved by Councillor Cowbourne, seconded by M. Brownstone, and carried:

That the Toronto Public Library Board approve the closure of Beaches Branch for renovation for a period to last approximately one year.

04-39 Ontario Library Association Block Discount Membership

Moved by M. Brownstone, seconded by Councillor Cowbourne, and carried:

That:

- (1) *the Toronto Public Library Board approve the Library's pilot participation in the Ontario Library Association's block membership program; and*
- (2) *a supplement of five percent from the Library's training budget and a further five percent supplement from the Centennial Trust Fund be added to the Ontario Library Association's discount of thirty percent to provide a combined membership discount of forty percent.*

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04-40 Communications*Moved by Councillor Cowbourne, seconded by M. Ibrahim, and carried:**That the Toronto Public Library Board:*

- (1) *receive Communication Item (a) and direct Library staff to review the Council of Administrators of Large Urban Public Libraries (CALUPL) proposal to Industry Canada concerning a strategy for a sustainable partnership and funding for Internet access for Board consideration in April:*
 - (a) *Letter to M. Jean-Claude Villiard, Deputy Minister, Industry Canada, from Gillian Mason, Chair, Toronto Public Library Board, dated February 12, 2004, concerning sustainability of public Internet use.*
- (2) *receive Communication Items (b) and (c) for information:*
 - (b) *Letter to Gillian Mason, Chair, Toronto Public Library Board, from Ross MacLeod, Director General, Programs, Information Highway Applications Branch, Industry Canada, dated March 8, 2004, acknowledging receipt of Gillian Mason's letter [see (a) above] concerning sustainability of public Internet use.*
 - (c) *Letter to Toronto Public Library from David Crombie, President and CEO, Canadian Urban Institute, received on March 17, 2004, advising that the Library is a finalist in the Canadian Urban Institute's Urban Leadership Awards in the City Livability category.*

Quorum was lost at 6:30 p.m.

Members of the Board in attendance at the meeting after quorum was lost heard the following information in connection with Library activities and services:

Chair's Report

- (1) The Board observed a moment of silence in memory of Board member Marjorie Stephenson. Ms. Stephenson passed away on March 1, 2004. It was her lifelong interest in books, reading and learning that led Ms. Stephenson to join the Library Board in 2001. Library staff and Board members attended the funeral on March 5. The Board's condolences have been passed on to the family.

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Chair's Report – continued

- (2) Recent advocacy efforts requested by the Board have produced very positive results. Both strategic plan and budget crunch publicity encouraging people to “Have Their Say” have generated considerable input. The majority of comments have been very supportive of the Library. A number of items regarding the Library’s budget have appeared in the media during the past few weeks including a supportive editorial in the Toronto Star on March 9.
- (3) During March Break, Library programs were well attended by children and youth in branches across the city. Staff estimate approximately 20,000 young people participated. Appreciation was extended to Board member Mitchell Weisberg for participating in the children’s Design-a-Bookmark event at the end of February. More than 7,000 children entered the contest.
- (4) The Library’s new website for teens – RAMP - went live in March. It is featured on the Library’s homepage, and Board members were given a demonstration at the meeting. The site provides a great deal of useful information for young people as well as provides an opportunity for participation in discussion groups.
- (5) The Beaches Branch is expected to close in April for approximately one year for a major renovation. Philip Carter is the architect for this project.
- (6) Programs of note in April include two at the Toronto Reference Library marking National Poetry Month: *Lyricalmyrical Poets* on April 6, and *Multicultural Poetry* on April 20.
- (7) The On Stage series, also at the Toronto Reference Library during April and May, will include Friday evenings with Clayton Ruby, Stevie Cameron, Norman Inkster, Zanana Akande, and Warren Kinsella.
- (8) The Trillium Awards news conference will take place at the Toronto Reference Library on Wednesday, March 31 at 1:00 p.m. At 2:00 p.m., the *Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award* will be presented to Dennis Lee in the Toronto Star Newspaper Centre. This is one of several events planned to mark the Library’s 120 years of service in 2004.
- (9) The Toronto Public Library has been nominated for a Canadian Urban Institute’s *Urban Leadership Award* in its inaugural year. TPL was nominated by the TD Bank Financial Group in the *City Livability* category. The winners will be announced on Wednesday, May 26 at a luncheon beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. Board members interested in attending this event should advise Nancy Marshall.

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Items for Information:**New Youth Service - RAMP**

A demonstration of RAMP – the Library’s new online gateway and meeting place for Toronto teens –was presented to Board members in attendance after quorum was lost. RAMP is a collaborative project of the Toronto Public Library staff and teen volunteers made possible by a grant from OW Incentive Funds. Participating in the demonstration were:

- ◆ Ken Settington, Children and Youth Advocate for Library Services;
- ◆ Katherine Palmer, Chair, RAMP Advisory Committee;
- ◆ Kathy Scardellato, Manager, Virtual Reference Library;
- ◆ Rosa Pinto, VRL Gateway Librarian for RAMP;
- ◆ Ana Glazirin, Teen Volunteer.

Toronto Public Library Volunteer Recognition Practice

The Board reviewed the *Toronto Public Library Volunteer Recognition Practice* report. In response to a question, staff confirmed that volunteers will continue to receive recognition in a variety of ways for their contribution to the Library. The recognition includes events at the local level, a newsletter, an annual speaking event, and an annual letter of appreciation from the Library Board.

Management Controls – Checklist for Commissioners

There was no discussion concerning the *Management Controls – Checklist for Commissioners* report.

Advocacy Update

Board members were provided with an update concerning the advocacy program in connection with the Library’s 2004 operating budget. The update is included in the report to the Board.

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2004 Operating and Capital Budgets – Update

Larry Hughsam, Director, Finance and Treasurer, provided the following information concerning the Toronto Public Library's 2004 operating and capital budgets:

- (1) The City's Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) is recommending a net \$10 million capital budget for 2004.
- (2) The Library Board approved a 2004 operating budget representing a 6.6% increase over 2003 which was presented to BAC on March 11. The BAC recommendation is in line with the Library Board's 2004 approved budget except for a \$476,000 reduction to the Library's original gapping request of \$900,000 resulting in a 2004 operating budget of 6.2% over 2003. The 6.2% increase over the 2003 budget will be recommended by BAC to the Policy and Finance Committee.
- (3) After Policy & Finance Committee approval, the Library's 2004 operating and capital budgets will be presented to Council for final approval at the end of April.

The meeting ended at 7:10 p.m.

Signed: _____