



Toronto Public Library Board – Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting Details

Meeting Number: 04

Date: Monday, April 20, 2026

Time: 6:02 p.m. to 8:11 p.m.

Location: Toronto Reference Library, Boardroom, 789 Yonge Street and via WebEx

Members Present (in person)

Alim Remtulla (Chair)

Jonathan Hoss (Vice Chair)

Deputy Mayor Paul Ainslie

Tamara Balan

Ben Liu

Members Present (via WebEx)

Tamara Balan

Soo Wong

Regrets

Sakariya Ahmed

Serda Evren

Amina Mohamed

Deputy Mayor Amber Morley

26-067 Call to Order

Alim Remtulla, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and welcomed all to the meeting.

Alim then introduced Moe Hosseini-Ara, City Librarian.

Moe recognized that it is important to acknowledge that the land on which Toronto Public 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.

Moe then introduced the participants in the meeting.

Alim then shared comments around Alberta Bill 28, the Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026, currently before the Alberta Legislature, which would expand provincial authority over public libraries by enabling ministerial inspection, regulation of access and borrowing, and directives to library boards.

Alim asked the Board to vote on introducing a motion related to Bill 28, which passed unanimously.

Motions

See the following:

Moved by Alim Remtulla, **seconded by** Deputy Mayor Paul Ainslie:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. *express its concern around Bill 28, the Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act of 2026, in order to preserve library independence, as the bill would transfer authority over public library collections and customer access from locally appointed library boards and professional library staff to provincial government ministers; and*

that this board reaffirm its commitment to an independent library system, intellectual freedom, customer privacy, equitable access to

information, and the principle of local governance of public libraries, consistent with the Public Libraries Act of Ontario; and

that this board direct the City Librarian to communicate this resolution to the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, the Coalition of the Alberta Public Libraries, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations, the Canadian Urban Libraries Council, the Urban Libraries Council, and the Ministers responsible for libraries in Ontario and Alberta, and this municipality's Members of Provincial Parliament and City of Toronto Mayor and Council.

Carried

26-068 Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

There were no *Declarations of Conflicts of Interest* by members of the Library Board at the April 20, 2026 meeting.

26-069 Approval of Agenda

Moved by *Ben Liu*, **seconded by** *Jonathan Hoss*:

That *the Toronto Public Library Board:*

- 1. approves the agenda.*

Carried

26-070 Confirmation of March 23, 2026 Toronto Public Library Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by *Jonathan Hoss*, **seconded by** *Soo Wong*:

That *the Toronto Public Library Board:*

- 1. confirms the minutes of the March 23, 2026 Toronto Public Library Board meeting.*

Carried

26-071 Confirmation of April 2, 2026 Naming Committee Meeting Minutes

Moved by *Jonathan Hoss*, **seconded by** *Tamara Balan*:

That *the Toronto Public Library Board:*

- 1. confirms the minutes of the April 2, 2026 Naming Committee meeting.*

Carried

26-072 Confirmation of April 2, 2026 Naming Committee Closed Meeting Minutes

Moved by Jonathan Hoss, **seconded by** Ben Liu:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. confirms the minutes of the April 2, 2026 Naming Committee closed meeting.

Carried

26-073 Confirmation of April 13, 2026 City Librarian's Performance Review Committee Meeting Minutes

Moved by Jonathan Hoss, **seconded by** Deputy Mayor Paul Ainslie:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. confirms the minutes of the April 13, 2026 City Librarian's Performance Review Committee meeting.

Carried

26-074 Confirmation of April 13, 2026 City Librarian's Performance Review Committee Closed Meeting Minutes

Moved by Jonathan Hoss, **seconded by** Soo Wong:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. confirms the minutes of the April 13, 2026 City Librarian's Performance Review Committee closed meeting.

Carried

26-075 Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Moved by Ben Liu, **seconded by** Jonathan Hoss:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. approves the consent agenda.

Carried

26-076 Business Arising from the Minutes

There were no *Business Arising from the Minutes* items at the April 20, 2026 meeting.

26-077 City Librarian's Report (Received by Consent)

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. receives the City Librarian's Report for information.

Carried

26-078 Communications

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. receives the Communication Report for information.

Carried

26-079 Presentations:

There were no *Presentations* at the April 20, 2026 meeting.

26-080 TPL Board Education – TPL Literary and Cultural Programming

Linda Hazzan, Director, Communications, Programming & Customer Engagement, and Gregory McCormick, Manager, Cultural & Special Events Programming delivered a presentation on TPL's Literary and Cultural Programming.

The presentation highlighted TPL's literary, cultural and ideas-based programming and events produced by the Communications, Programming & Customer Engagement team including The Salon Series, On Civil Society and Cultural Community Programming.

Moved by Ben Liu, seconded by Jonathan Hoss:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. receives the TPL Literary and Cultural Programming presentation for information.

Carried

Items for Action

26-081 Social and Crisis Support Services – Award of Contracts

Pam Ryan, Director, Service Development & Innovation, and Marco Cuoco, Director, Finance & Chief Financial Officer, reviewed highlights of the report for the Board.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Soo Wong:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. award a contract to Gerstein Crisis Centre for Social and Crisis Support Services for a total potential value of \$5,242,987 excluding HST, comprised of:
 - a) base term from May 1, 2026, to December 31, 2028, for \$2,935,848; and
 - b) two one-year optional renewal periods, subject to satisfactory performance at the sole discretion of the City Librarian for a total potential contract value of \$2,307,139, covering periods:
 - (i) January 1, 2029, to December 31, 2029, for \$1,142,148
 - (ii) January 1, 2030, to December 31, 2030, for \$1,164,991
2. award a contract to TAIBU Community Health Centre for Social and Crisis Support Services for a total potential value of \$1,413,140 excluding HST, comprised of:
 - a) base term from May 1, 2026, to December 31, 2027, for \$490,911; and
 - b) three one-year optional renewal periods, subject to satisfactory performance and at the sole discretion of the City Librarian; for a total potential additional contract value of \$922,229, covering periods:
 - (i) January 1, 2028, to December 31, 2028, for \$301,342
 - (ii) January 1, 2029, to December 31, 2029, for \$307,369
 - (iii) January 1, 2030, to December 31, 2030, for \$313,517

Carried

26-082 Steeles Branch – Lease Renewal (Approved by Consent)

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. endorses a lease renewal agreement with Bamburgh Gardens Properties Inc. for the premises occupied by the Steeles branch, 375 Bamburgh Circle, Units C106 and C107 for a five (5) year term to commence on September 1, 2026, and terminate on August 31, 2031, substantially on terms and conditions set out in Appendix A;

2. *authorizes the City Librarian to act on its behalf to seek City approval and execute the lease and related documentation.*

Carried

26-083 Integrated Pest Management Services – Award of Contract (Approved by Consent)

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. *award a contract to Orkin Canada Corporation for integrated pest management services for a total potential value of \$2,547,838 excluding Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), comprised of:*
 - a. *a five-year base term from May 1, 2026, to April 30, 2031, with a contract value of \$1,216,917; and*
 - b. *five one-year optional renewal periods, subject to satisfactory performance and at the sole discretion of the City Librarian, for a total potential additional contract value of \$1,330,921, comprised of:*
 - i) *May 1, 2031, to April 31, 2032, for \$250,685*
 - ii) *May 1, 2032, to April 31, 2033, for \$258,205*
 - iii) *May 1, 2033, to April 31, 2034, for \$265,952*
 - iv) *May 1, 2034, to April 31, 2035, for \$273,930*
 - v) *May 1, 2035, to April 31, 2036, for \$282,148*

Carried

Items for Information

26-084 2025 Strategic Plan Progress Annual Report

Shawn Mitchell, Director, Policy, Planning & Performance Management, Laural Raine, Senior Manager, Planning, Policy & Evaluation, and Mabel Ho, Manager, Strategy & Engagement, reviewed highlights of the report for the Board.

Moved by Jonathan Hoss, ***seconded by*** Soo Wong:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. *receives the 2025 Strategic Plan Progress Annual Report for information.*

Carried

Items for Action

26-085 Naming Committee: Naming Opportunity at the Dufferin/St. Clair Branch: Nancy Byers Children's Room

Jonathan Hoss, Chair, TPLB Naming Committee, provided an overview of the discussion at the Committee's April 2, 2026 meeting regarding the naming opportunity at the Dufferin/St. Clair branch.

Moved by Soo Wong, **seconded by** Tamara Balan:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. approve the name of the Children's Room at the Dufferin/St. Clair branch as the Nancy Byers Children's Room.

Carried

26-086 Naming Committee: Naming Opportunities – Relocated St. Lawrence Branch, 339 Queen Street East

Jonathan Hoss, Chair, TPLB Naming Committee, provided an overview of the discussion at the Committee's April 2, 2026 meeting regarding the naming opportunities at the relocated St. Lawrence branch.

Moved by Soo Wong, **seconded by** Deputy Mayor Paul Ainslie:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. receives the Naming Opportunities – Relocated St. Lawrence Branch, 339 Queen Street East verbal update for information.

Carried

Closed Meeting

26-087 Closed Meeting

At 6:54 p.m., it was:

Moved by Ben Liu, **seconded by** Soo Wong:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. conducts a Closed meeting as the subject matter being considered (Toronto Public Library Foundation Campaign Update; Naming Opportunities – Relocated St. Lawrence Branch, 339 Queen Street East; and Naming Committee: Potential New Branch – Naming Opportunity) involves the security of the property of the Board; and (City Librarian's Performance Review Committee: City Librarian's 2025 Performance Plan Review and 2026 Performance Plan)

*involves personal matters concerning an identifiable individual.
Public Libraries Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter P. 44, s. 16.1(4).*

Carried

At 8:09 p.m., the Board resumed its meeting in public.

**26-088 Adoption of Closed Meeting Actions: Toronto Public Library
Foundation Campaign Update**

Moved by Jonathan Hoss, **seconded by** Deputy Mayor Paul Ainslie:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. receives the Toronto Public Library Foundation Campaign Update verbal report for information.

Carried

**26-089 Adoption of Closed Meeting Actions: Naming Committee: Naming
Opportunities – Relocated St. Lawrence Branch, 339 Queen Street East
confidential attachment**

Moved by Jonathan Hoss, **seconded by** Soo Wong:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. approves the recommendations of the Naming Committee, as outlined in Confidential Attachment 1; and
2. authorize the public release of Confidential Attachment 1, following completion of negotiations, finalization of appropriate approvals, and release of public announcements.

Carried

**26-090 Adoption of Closed Meeting Actions: Naming Committee: Potential
New Branch – Naming Opportunity**

Moved by Jonathan Hoss, **seconded by** Soo Wong:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. approves the recommendations of the Naming Committee, as outlined in Confidential Attachment 1; and
2. authorize the public release of Confidential Attachment 1, following completion of negotiations, finalization of appropriate approvals, and release of public announcements.

Carried

25-091 Adoption of Closed Meeting Actions: City Librarian's 2024 and 2025 Performance Review

Moved by Ben Liu, seconded by Jonathan Hoss:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. *approves the City Librarian's Performance Review Committee's confidential verbal and written report and recommendations for the City Librarian's 2025 performance plan review and 2026 performance plan; and*
2. *approves that information concerning the City Librarian's 2025 and 2026 performance review not be made public as the subject matter being considered involves personal matters about an identifiable individual.*

Carried

26-092 Adjournment

Moved by Jonathan Hoss, seconded by Ben Liu:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. *adjourns the April 20, 2026 Toronto Public Library Board meeting.*

Carried

The meeting ended at 8:11 p.m.

Signed:_____