SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY GENERAL MEETING, MARCH 22, 2021 NOON

*The South Shore Regional Library Board administers South Shore Public Libraries.*

*South Shore Public Libraries celebrate reading, discovering, learning and sharing.*

Present: Mr. Patrick Hirtle, Chair

Dr. David Brattston

Councillor David Brown

Councillor Jenni Birtles

Councillor Tina Connors

Councillor Michelle Greek

Councillor Stacey Colwell

Ms. Marie Hogan Loker

Mr. Tom Sheppard

Ms. Kara Turner

Ms. Christina Pottie, Staff

Mr. Jeff Mercer, Staff

Mr. Troy Myers, Secretary/Treasurer

Ms. Lynn Robart, Recorder

Regrets from: Ms. Cindy Bruhm, Ms. Wilma Stewart-White, and Mr. Mark Taylor.

Motion: “THAT the South Shore Regional Library Board accept the minutes

of the January 18, 2021 as circulated.”

GREEK/Hogan Loker All in favour. Motion carried.

LBANS Report

Christina reported that LBANS held their Annual General Meeting on February 17, 2021. Cindy Bruhm attended to represent our board. SSPL does not have a permanent representative on LBANS at this time. If anyone is interested in being SSPL Board representative please contact Lynn.

STAFF ASSOCIATION REPORT – No report

2nd QUARTER VEHICLE REPORT October – December 2020

The 3rd Quarter Vehicle Report was circulated to Board with agenda. A question arose if we will be able to use the older mobile after we receive the replacement. As the mobile gets older there will be more repairs; if the repairs remain minimum we will continue to use our mobile to do shorter runs and events. The completion date of the new mobile is swiftly approaching. We are anticipating delivery in May and are working on plans for ‘grand opening’ events at many of the regular stops.

DIVERSITY TRAINING FOR LIBRARY BOARDS

Dr. Brattson, Chair Patrick Hirtle, Councillor Michelle Greek, Councillor Tina Connors and Marie Hogan Loker participated in the Diversity training that was offered by the Province. Many Board Members around the province commented that the training was not offered at times that worked for them. .

SOUTH SHORE LIBRARY BOARD, MARCH 22, 2021 Page 2

SOCIAL MEDIA INCIDENT

On March 3rd the SSPL Facebook page reposted an opinion piece from the National Post article. The intention was to engage people in a conversation about intellectual freedom and a follow up to “Freedom to Read Week”. However, this was a grave misstep and SSPL was immediately called out as racist for this sharing the post, subsequent related posts and the lack of moderation to comments and posts reacting to SSPL’s post and apologies. CEO/Chief Librarian Troy Myers apologized to the Board for the hurt and damaged that occurred as a result. In hindsight, he commented, that Facebook was not the proper venue to open or conduct discussion about ‘Freedom to Read’, that perhaps a useful forum for this kind of meeting is around a table with subject area experts available to lead and add to the discussion. Troy stated that libraries are safe places and everyone is welcome. Troy and Patrick met with the Town of Bridgewater Anti-Racism Task Force to discuss steps forward to repair the damage created with BIPOC community members and have the next meeting already scheduled. An invitation has been extended to the BIPOC South Shore Collective to meet as well. Dr. Brattston commented he is concerned about censorship. Troy met with Tattletale Books and charged them with reviewing our collection to ensure it is diverse and inclusive and to add titles where it may be lacking. An update will be provided at the next Board Meeting.

2020-21 SURPLUS MOTION

Motion: “THAT 2020-21 Surplus would be put forward to the purchase of the new mobile.”

BRATTSON/Brown All in favour. Motion carried.

OTHER

Troy shared that SSPL has been successful in securing grant funding for the new Bookmobile; $10,000 for the accessible lift from Community Access-Ability Program and $50,000 for technology from the Library Innovation Fund.

Tom Sheppard informed the Board of the passing of author Budge Wilson. Budge’s husband, Alan was a long time Board Member serving on the Board for twenty-two years. Both Budge and Alan were great supporters of the SSPL. A note of condolence will be sent to Alan and family.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be Monday, May 17, 2021 at 12 noon at the Margaret Hennigar Public Library or via conference call.

ADJOURNMENT

Tom Sheppard moved the meeting adjourned; Marie Hogan Loker seconded.