## **SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY GENERAL MEETING, February 22, 2023**

The South Shore Regional Library Board administers South Shore Public Libraries. South Shore Public Libraries celebrate reading, discovering, learning and sharing.

Present: Patrick Hirtle, Chair

Cindy Bruhm, Vice Chair Councillor Tina Connors Councillor Stacey Colwell Councillor Vicki Amirault Councillor Chasidy Veinotte

Diane Racette Marie Hogan Loker Jeff Mercer, Staff Christina Pottie, Staff

Alisa Hemeon, Staff/Recorder

Regrets from: Councillor Vicki Amirault, Councillor Wendy Oickle, Councillor Jenni Birtles, Tom Sheppard,

Cathy LeBlanc, and Wilma Stewart-White.

Patrick Hirtle called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

### MINUTES:

Motion: "THAT the South Shore Regional Library Board accept the Minutes of the January 18,

2023 meeting as circulated."

COLWELL/Racette All in favour. Motion carried.

## 2.1 LBANS

Cindy Bruhm attended the virtual meeting on January 28, 2023. Subsequent dates are March 25 and May 27, 2023. Minutes of the LBANS meeting will be distributed separately. LBANS continues to network with communities to assess needs.

## 2.2 THOMAS H. RADDALL LIBRARY/REGION OF QUEENS

Jeff Mercer and David Trueman attended 2 meetings with the architect and a pre-design will soon be ready. The pre-design looks at key concepts and general flow of space. The goal for completion is spring/summer 2024.

### 2.3 EQUITY, DIVERSITY and INCLUSION

SSPL's next training will be a four-hour course entitled "Four Seasons of Reconciliation," which will fit within our "Gather and Grow" professional development grant funding. Board members are invited to take this course as well. Christina will provide a quote of costs during the next general Board meeting.

### 2.4 STAFF ASSOCIATION

No report

# 2.5 CEO UPDATES: CORL Vision and Staffing

<u>CORL</u>: "Representatives from all 9 library regions and the Nova Scotia Provincial Library met on February 16 and 17 for a visioning session to discuss the current needs of libraries, our aims for long-term stability, growth and improvement, and to determine a shared view of our mission and core services in providing public library service in Nova Scotia. It was a very collaborative, collegial, and productive session; regional circumstances may differ, but the ultimate needs and goals for libraries and library service are shared across the province.

A presentation will be held virtually at 6:30pm on February 27 summarizing the results of the session and asking for further input. The presentation will be held virtually via Zoom; all Board members are encouraged to attend if possible (details will be sent via email), and a recording of the presentation will be available afterwards for all who cannot attend.

This was the first part of a two-part process being undertaken as preparation for entering into funding formula negotiations with the Province (the current formula ends with the 24/25 fiscal year). The second session will take place on March 23 and 24; building on it will focus on identifying measurables for core services and identifying funding priorities. Please don't hesitate to ask any questions or provide any suggestions or other input you may wish considered in this process. Further discussion and planning with the Board will occur after the session has concluded, as part of the preparations for the upcoming funding formula negotiations."

<u>Staffing:</u> Dave White, our Bookmobile Supervisor has announced his retirement effective April 28, 2023. His last working day will be Friday, March 17, 2023. Dave started with SSPL in 1983; 40 years ago! SSPL will be posting the position as soon as possible. Michele Garret Jones has tendered her resignation – she was working part-time as a Bookmobile Driver and in the branches as a Library Clerk. She has agreed to remain on our casual list.

# 2.6 OTHER

Tancook Island book deposit - Councillor Stacey Colwell was unable to connect with his contact. Patrick Hirtle will try to reach out to his contacts. SSPL is researching possible grant funding for Old Bookmobile repairs.

## 3.1 COST OF LIVING RATE INCREASE 2023/2024

Jeff and Alisa presented the proposed salaries and draft budget report highlighting cost savings from senior staff departures, divisions of positions no longer requiring benefits costs and staggering of various anniversary dates for step progressions throughout the year. Although, the cost of benefits is expected to receive a minimal increase, it is projected that the library can support a 5.9% Cost of Living rate as published by Statistics Canada in January 2023. This should provide little to no impact on Library services. A revised draft budget report will be distributed to Board members for review before the next meeting. Discussion held regarding reserves and accumulated surplus.

Motion: "THAT the South Shore Regional Library Board accept the recommendation of the

Finance committee and approve a 5.9% COL increase for staff effective April 1, 2023.

COLWELL/Racette All in favour. Motion carried.

# DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next general meeting is set for Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 6 pm.

# <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

Marie Hogan Loker adjourned the meeting at 6:31 pm.