

SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY GENERAL MEETING, September 20, 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 Stacey Colwell
Councillor Vicki Amirault
Councillor Wendy Oickle
Diane Racette
Marie Hogan Loker
Tom Sheppard
Ashley Nunn-Smith, Staff
Christina Pottie, Staff
Alisa Hemeon, Staff/Recorder

Regrets from: Councillor Tina Connors

Patrick Hirtle called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm

MINUTES:

Motion: "THAT the South Shore Regional Library Board accept the Minutes of the July 3, 2023 meeting as circulated."

AMIRAULT/Oickle All in favour. Motion carried.

YOUR LIBRARY YOUR WAY

Your Library Your Way focus group discussions with Dr. Cheryl Stenstrom.

3.1 LBANS

September 23, 2023 LBANS meeting postponed due to a number of vacancies on the Board. The Association is in a state of transition and rebuilding. Updates to be provided as received.

3.2 THOMAS H. RADDALL LIBRARY/REGION OF QUEENS

Councillor Amirault stated that the Council is hoping to meet soon and provide further updates regarding the Liverpool library.

3.3 EQUITY, DIVERSITY and INCLUSION

Further training with Ashanti Leadership will be happening on October 23, 2023. If any Board members are interested in the Truth and Reconciliation course, they are to arrange with Christina.

3.4 STAFF ASSOCIATION

Alisa read the report submitted by Charity Fraser, advising of executive members elected at their AGM (Holly Sweet – President, Charity Fraser - Vice President, Melissa Bishop – Secretary, and Blake MacDonald – Treasurer). No further questions.

3.5 CEO UPDATES

i. New Staff

SSPL has welcomed a new Branch Coordinator, Gill Tobin-Huxley, to our Bridgewater branch. Gill comes from a background in Marine biology, which lends itself to some interesting new program opportunities.

Sunday hour vacancies at MHPL have been filled with 3 of our current staff members on a permanent basis; Martin Albertson, Amanda Adams and Michele Knott have accepted.

Two project teams have been formed, made up of 4 to 5 people on each team. One team will focus on a Policy review and the other team will work on Occupation Health and Safety. These teams will provide recommendations for updates/changes needed in these areas.

Ashley and Alisa are both taking courses through Workplace education this fall. Ashley's is on HR Essentials and Alisa's is on Transformational Leadership. These are 10 weeks (40 hours) in duration.

ii. Intellectual Freedom Course

Ashley created a slide deck on Intellectual Freedom to refresh our staff on the policies related to Material Selection, Borrower Registration, Internet and SSPL's Intellectual Freedom Statement. As a public library, the parents/guardians are responsible for the selection of reading materials that a child/minor chooses. This differs greatly from our education systems where the staff are in a position of loco parentis (in the place of a parent). In addition, book challenges are on the rise so it is important to empower the staff and board with the tools to address these concerns as they arise.

3.6 OTHER

i. Summer Programming 2023

In 2022, SSPL had 238 programs over the summer for ages 4-13 and had 1150 participants. This summer, SSPL had 234 programs and 1320 participants. Last year 204 people read 641 hours and this year 240 people read 1775 hours. There was an exponential improvement this summer with focussed programming.

3.6 ii. Lunenburg Lit Fest 2023

For two years in a row, there have been hurricanes during the festival. Despite having to cancel Saturday programs, there were 100 children for Shauntay Grant on Thursday morning to hear about and read the book, Africville. Thursday evening's event highlighting the life and legacy of Maud Lewis had 50 people in attendance. Friday night, 75 people attended the Donna Morrissey, Jennifer Robson and Amanda Peters' event. This was the first year that SSPL offered tickets for purchase online through Eventbrite. This helped keep people up to date on cancellations and refunds for those events.

4.1 1st Quarter Spending Report

The first quarterly report (April, May, June 2023) was presented at the Finance meeting held prior to the General meeting. Ashley provided a brief overview noting that it is still early in the year to see spending trends. The 2nd quarterly report will be provided at the October Board meeting.

Motion: "THAT the South Shore Regional Library Board approve the First Quarterly Spending Report as presented.

BRUHM/Hogan Loker All in favour. Motion carried.

4.2 1st Quarter Vehicle Report

Alisa read the report as circulated. No questions.

4.3 All-Staff Development Days 2023-24

The Board had previously approved Ashanti Leadership to provide staff development in 2023-24. Dates have now been selected for the two half-day sessions: October 23, 2023 and January 15, 2024. In order to have the least impact on public service, both dates are Mondays, where only two of our five locations are open.

Motion: "THAT the South Shore Regional Library Board agree to closing the branches for Staff Development days on October 23, 2023 and January 15, 2024."

HOGAN LOKER/Colwell All in favour. Motion carried.

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next general meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2023 at 6:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

COLWELL adjourned the meeting at 7:19 pm.