

# Library Board Meeting

## MINUTES

February 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

*Conducted in-person at WSPL, 2 Park Drive, Stouffville, ON.*

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Present: Sandra Liaros, Margaret Wallace – CEO, Nadine Williams, Carol Hughes, David Parmer, Dina Simon, Rocco Priore, Councillor Kroon, Councillor Smith

Regrets/Absent: Marcia Friginette, Colin Whitebread

Staff: Kate Scheiers, Jennifer Onlock, Tyler Durbano, RM Pucci

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1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

The Chair welcomed Board Members and called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The Chair recited the formal Land Acknowledgement which recognizes that the work of the Library and its community partners takes place on traditional Indigenous territories.

NEW LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS:

The Chair welcomed newly appointed Board Members, Dina Simon and Rocco Priore.

2. INTRODUCTION OF ADDENDUM ITEMS

There were no additions to the agenda.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION - #024-001

Moved by Carol Hughes, seconded by Nadine Williams

THAT the Library Board adopt the Agenda of February 1, 2024.

**CARRIED**

4. PRESENTATION: 2024 Latcham Exhibitions Overview

Jennifer Onlock, Manager of Latcham Art Centre and Tyler Durbano, Gallery Curator introduced themselves and provided the Board with an overview of 2024 exhibitions. Tyler informed the Board of the 5 thematic curated shows and 3 community-focused shows each year at Latcham, and 4 exhibitions at the Town Office Gallery that focus on artists that live and work in York Region.

IMAGES is an annual showcase of graduating senior high school students' artwork from SDSS. This year's IMAGES exhibition was called Meraki by the students: a Greek word that means "to put your heart and soul into what you do".

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Night Visions, taking place until March 16, 2024, is one of the first ever solo exhibitions by Montreal-based artist and illustrator Mathieu Larone. It also marks Latcham's efforts to start bringing in artists outside of Ontario to Latcham. The Annual Juried exhibition follows Night Visions, from March 25 to April 27, 2024. This exhibition is open to all Ontario-based artists working in any media.

Celebrations focuses on student artwork from pre-school to grade 11. Seventeen schools are invited yearly, and 2023 attendance was over 1,500 guests during the 4-week run. This exhibition coincides with National Youth Week and our KickstART event, which is a fun paint battle hosted in the Latcham studio.

Summer exhibitions include *like heirlooms* and *Belonging*. The final curated exhibition of the year is by Toronto-based artist, Meera Sethi, and focuses on connection to their culture through fabric and textiles.

The Town Offices Gallery include the following exhibitions by local artists throughout 2024: Judith Livingston, Bill Lunshof, Ghazaleh Naderian, Vicky Talwar, and the Inklings Writing Group.

5. **ERRORS & OMISSIONS:**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the previous Board meeting.

**MOTION - #024-002**

Moved by Carol Hughes, seconded by Dina Simon

THAT the December 7, 2023, Minutes of the regular Board Meeting be accepted.

CARRIED.

6. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the previous Board meeting.

7. **BUSINESS ARISING**

7.1 2024 Library Operating Budget

7.2 2024 Latcham Operating Budget

The CEO briefly reviewed the approved Council Budgets. There is a draw from our Reserves from the Budget of \$104,000. This is not a financial concern, but it is important to note as it differs from the Board approved budget.

8. **COUNCIL CONNECTS**

Councillor Maurice Smith spoke of the February 1, 2024 Public Council Meeting where Council Chambers had standing room only. Overall, it was an effective and fruitful meeting.

9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no additional items to discuss.

10. FOPL REPORT

Nadine Williams received an update from the FOPL Executive Director that a presentation to the Minister of Finance was put forth on January 11, 2024. Boards have been advocating with their local MPPs. Nadine Williams stated that going forward, her involvement will be greatly increased.

The CEO was pleased to let the Board know of the 251 million virtual visits in 2023, overall. She encouraged the Board to share the good news and statistics.

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Policy Review

a. LIB-GOV12 – Board Structure

The CEO noted that only change was adding “vacancy” to this policy.

MOTION - #024-003

Moved by David Parmer, seconded by Councillor Maurice Smith  
THAT Policy review LIB-GOV12 – Board Structure be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

11.2 Report CEO-001-24 Strategic Plan 2023 Accomplishments

The CEO lauded the Library team for their hard work and dedication, as 2023 accomplishments were outstanding. Notables: Bicycle Lendery, The Lendery, etc. She also informed the Board of many more exciting things to come, and that this report will be going to council on February 7, 2024.

MOTION - #024-004

Moved by Nadine Williams, seconded by Councillor Hugo Kroon  
THAT Report CEO-001-24 Strategic Plan 2023 Accomplishments be approved as presented

CARRIED.

11.3 Report CEO-002-24 Statistics 2023 – Q4

The CEO noted the markedly increased number of program participants in 2023, both for WSPL and LAC. Nadine Williams inquired as to the drop in teen participation. Ms. Wallace clarified by stating that the Library did carry on for the most part of 2023 without a Teen Program Services member, and that consistency is key. The Library is in fact trending upwards in teen participants, as proven by the recent 6 Study Halls with 215 teens attending. Kate Scheiers, Manager of Programs & Engagement, is working on reaching out to local high schools to achieve the participation numbers prior to COVID. Jennifer Onlock also stated that LAC has adapted to bring in new youth programs quickly, and that as the teen numbers increase at the Leisure Centre, so do the numbers at LAC.

Carol Hughes inquired re: deleted items statistic. These books are sent to Better World Books. They have a list of criteria, and they cover the shipping charges. Books sent to BWB are often forwarded to Northern communities and to those in need.

**MOTION - #024-005**

Moved by Dina Simon, seconded by Councillor Hugo Kroon  
THAT Report CEO-002-24 Statistics 2023 – Q4 be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

**11.4 Report CEO-003-24 2024 Special Events & Program Planning Highlights**

The WSPL and LAC roster of 2024 events and programs was noted by the Board. The Chair announced that 2024 will prove to be an exciting and very busy year for WSPL and LAC.

**MOTION - #024-006**

Moved by David Parmer, seconded by Carol Hughes  
THAT Report CEO-003-24 2024 Special Events & Program Planning Highlights be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

**12. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

The CEO was pleased to announce 2024 Stouffville Reads. She asked the Board to mark their calendars for June 13, 2024. A Fundraising Committee meeting will be held within the next two weeks. A sponsorship and donations document will be forwarded to the committee members: Dina Simon, David Parmer, and Rocco Priore. The theme for this year is espionage and spies. The search for 3 Champions has commenced. The CEO welcomed suggestions from the Board: David Parmer recommended Jesse Fuchs, Kate will reach out to the host of CBC radio program, Commotion, and the CEO informed the Board we would be reaching out to the new Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, Christian Buhagiar.

Sponsorship in 2023 reached \$1,000, and we are hoping to keep to \$75 per person by bringing in more sponsorships in 2024. Dina Simon, David Parmer, and Rocco Priore of the Fundraising Committee will lead on this initiative. The Chair suggested David Parmer speak with John Relph for support. Rocco Priore will seek sponsorship at Country Casa.

Councillor Maurice Smith raised the recent Toronto Libraries data hack/breach. They are still offline; fortunately, this did not affect the WSPL, as we are on our own system (Polaris). It will take the Toronto Libraries a while longer to return to normal operations. The CEO put forth that we could invite an expert on cyber security to a Board Meeting if there is interest. She also mentioned that Library staff are trained in cyber security as part of ongoing training.

The CEO reminded the Board of WSPL's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and Latcham's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary – both in 2024. We will have celebrations planned for both major events.

**13. NEXT MEETING: March 7, 2024**


**14. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION - #024-007

Moved by David Parmer, seconded by Councillor Maurice Smith

THAT the Library Board meeting be adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

CARRIED.

Signed:   
Sandra Liaros, Library Board Chair

Date: March 7 / 24

