

Ramara Township Public Library Board

Thursday, January 18, 2024 – by Zoom, from our homes

Board members present: Jane Ste. Marie, Dayle Rochon, Ken Szijarto, Deputy Mayor Keith Bell, Karen Whitehorn, Donna Hewitt, Janet Banfield, Adrienne Davies

Regrets: Ninette Gyorody, Councilor Sherri Bell

1. Call to order: 1:05 p.m. by Chairperson, Jane Ste. Marie

2. Consent agenda: none

3. Approval of agenda:

Under New business - add: *Circ-12 Interlibrary Loan policy*

Motion #2024-01 Moved by, Keith Bell, seconded by Ken Szijarto that the agenda be adopted as amended. Carried.

(Adrienne arrived at 1:06 p.m.)

4. In Camera: none

5. Declaration of conflicts of interest: none

6. Minutes of preceding meeting: distributed

Motion #2024-02 Moved by Karen Whitehorn, seconded by Donna Hewitt that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. Carried.

7. Business arising from the minutes:

(a) Reach out to other libraries regarding the Ontario Library Association (OLA) correspondence re: school boards banning and restricting books, for discussion at January meeting, *Janet Banfield, done;*

Janet reported that no other Library Board's have responded or supported OLA's correspondence. Jane mentioned Ontario government Circular 14 which is a list of approved books. She believes that the intention has been misinterpreted by school boards who have removed books from their libraries. The government does not dictate collection and it is possible to argue against the exclusion of certain books, but it is up to the individual school boards. At any rate, it does not apply to public libraries who set their own policies. Ken wondered if this might become an issue with the public, but we have policies in place that provide answers/arguments, if necessary.

(b) take concerns back to infrastructure department re: Brechin signage, for another solution, *Janet Banfield, done;*

Josh recommended that we hang a sign above or below the current park sign or on the fence. However, since heating of the current temporary location is posing challenges on cold days, she recommended that we hold off spending money on a new sign if this location is not going to be suitable solution. Interestingly, Google Maps has updated the temporary location.

(c) revise Circ-17 Exam Proctoring policy for approval at the January meeting, *Janet Banfield, done.* See under **New business.**

8. Correspondence: *none*

9. Chairperson's remarks: *Jane Ste. Marie*

Jane received the new Winter/Spring newsletter and said the library is offering very exciting programs and that we are the envy of many other Simcoe County libraries for our programs. Kudos to Janet and her team. She highlighted the Master Gardener series that will be offered from April – June at the Udney Community Hall.

Janet mentioned that we neglected to approve the In Camera minutes under Item #6 – Minutes of the Preceding Meeting.

Motion #2024-03 Moved by Keith Bell, seconded by Karen Whitehorn that the In Camera minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. Carried.

10. Treasurer's report: *distributed, Janet Banfield for Manon Higgins*

The Ontario operating grant came through on December 29, after Janet completing and submitting the annual survey/report. This grant is always late coming as the Ministry's year ends on March 31st. The Township grant is lower to offset the cost of rental income from Brechin. Donna asked if there would be a claw back because of staff wages not used in 2023. Janet answered that any surplus money will go into the library's general reserves. The Township is planning to survey the public about the usage of the buildings recently purchased on the corner in Brechin; Janet is hopeful that a new library location may be considered.

There was no motion to accept the Treasurer's report.

11. Chief Executive Officer's report: *Janet Banfield*

Jane requested that if there are questions about the CEO's report prior to the Board meeting, to please have them to Janet by the Friday before the meeting.

Health and Safety concerns were addressed: there has been no update on security cameras at the Ramara Centre.

Vanessa summarized her Artificial Intelligence (AI) webinar advising that content gleaned through AI could be biased, invented or even copyrighted: AI creates new content from previous input. Jane suggested that it would be a good idea for Library Board members to register for the Artificial Intelligence (AI) workshop that our library is offering on February 6th to garner a better understanding of AI for policy purposes.

Ken informed everyone that he uses and really likes PressReader. Janet explained that member libraries select eResources together for our websites that are accessible to each library's community patrons and Simcoe County pays for the annual subscriptions (maximum budget \$200,000/year). Monthly usage stats are provided by the County and all eResources are promoted by individual libraries.

(Ken left the meeting at 1:52 p.m.)

12. Council's report:

Council recently attended the ROMA Conference and applied for 5 delegations.

Discussions ensued about infrastructure funding for the 2 buildings in Brechin.

Engineer's report will give an idea of how to proceed. Donna asked if there is a heritage component for consideration.

They also requested funding for a Sports Dome that may be forthcoming in 5-10 years.

A By-Election for Ward 4 was approved at the recent Committee of the Whole meeting and needs to be ratified at the upcoming Council meeting.

13. Committee reports: *none*

14. Other business:

Circ-17 - Exam Proctoring Policy

Motion #2024-04 Moved by Dayle Rochon, seconded by Keith Bell that **Circ-17 - Exam Proctoring Policy** be accepted as amended. Carried.

Circ-12 – Interlibrary Loan: Many libraries will not lend audiovisual items as our library currently does not allow lending of our audiovisual material.

To revise, remove "...not...", so that it reads...Ramara Public Library will lend audiovisual materials to other libraries.

Motion #2024-05 Moved by Karen Whitehorn, seconded by Adrienne Davies that **Circ-12 – Interlibrary Loan** policy be accepted as amended. Carried.

15. Friends of the Library report: *Janet Banfield, Adrienne Davies*

A Zoom meeting is planned for January 29th at 10 a.m. when the Friends will discuss fundraising plans and a date for their AGM in 2024. The Friends have obtained several new members which is great for the group.

Staff have provided program budgets for the Friends approval at the upcoming meeting.

16. Public comments:

Janet mentioned that the Executive Director of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) is advocating the Ministry for a new digital library for all Ontario public libraries that will provide equal access to all and is also requesting that the Ministry increase public library operating grants.

17. Date and location of next meeting: *February 15 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom*

18. Adjournment:

Motion #2024-06 Moved by Dayle Rochon that the meeting be adjourned at 2:19 p.m.