



WHISTLER PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Wednesday, June 7th 2023

Formal Meeting 5 to 7 p.m.

**Hybrid Meeting –
Community Room
& via Microsoft
Teams**

MINUTES

Attending:

Mike Walsh (Chair)
Ali Blancher
Bevin Heath Ansley
Gail Banning
Josie Chuback
Sarene Bourdages
Sheilagh Martin
Thomas Sikora
Tina Young
Mikale Fenton

Regrets:

Ralph Forsyth
Karen Laughland

050. Call to Order

Traditional Territories Acknowledgement Statement—Sarene

The Whistler Public Library is grateful to be on the shared, unceded territory of the Lil'wat People, known in their language as Liłwə́t7úł, and the Squamish people, known in their language as Skwxw̓7mesh. We respect and commit to a deep consideration of their history, culture, stewardship and voice.

100. Approval of Agenda

Motion: That the Agenda be approved

Moved: Bevin

Seconded: Ali

Approved unanimously

200. Consent Agenda

1. Play well with others

Public Comments

2. Make Life Better

Minutes of the previous meeting: May 3rd 2023

WPL Dashboard May 2023

Minutes of Friends Meetings May 2023

3. Be an Inspiration

“Whistler volunteer wins raffle, two years in a row” Pique Newsmagazine

“Whistler library opens new learning centre”- Pique Newsmagazine

“What should Whistler look like in the 2050?”-Pique Newsmagazine

Motion that the consent agenda be approved

Moved: Thomas

Seconded: Tina

Approved unanimously

300. Business Arising from Reports

400. New Business

1. Make an Impact

1.1 Board Policy 300

Sarene provided an explanation of the policy change, highlighting the newly added section on Trustee Training and Development. She also mentioned that Policy 300 is subject to change in future years based on the Board's skills matrix. Tina raised a concern regarding the confusion caused by the numbering of subsections.

Motion to approve Policy 300 with the correcting of the numbering of subsections.

Moved: Gail

Seconded: Bevin

Approved: unanimously

2. Make Life Better

2.1 BCLA Conference Highlights

Josie presented on her experience attending the 2023 conference both as a representative of the Whistler Board, but also as an Interlink trustee member. The theme of the conference was "Windows, Mirrors, and Sliding Doors." The sessions covered various topics, providing topical information, professional expertise, and valuable resources. The conference included personal and organizational stories, shared experiences,

inspiration, and lessons learned. There was also a trustee meet-up as part of the event. Key learnings and benefits from the conference included gaining an appreciation for the breadth, depth, and uniqueness of libraries in BC. The importance of staying connected within the library world was emphasized, as well as the delicate balance of managing access and risks in relation to technology. The role of libraries in addressing community and global challenges, such as the climate crisis and emergency response, was also discussed. The reflection of the community was highlighted, encompassing the library board, staff, and programs.

Some considerations moving forward would be to actively engage trustees, keeping them informed and aware of trends and issues in the library world. Seeking opportunities to connect with other trustees and libraries was also emphasized. Understanding our library's priorities and strategic plans was identified as crucial, along with the awareness that new and promising practices are constantly emerging in our sector.

Mikale shared her experience at the BCLA conference, highlighting various aspects. First, she emphasized the importance of relationship building through her participation in the ABCPLD AGM, LLEAD meet-up, and cross-organizational connections. Next, she found the sessions particularly valuable as they covered topics relevant to ongoing projects and future planning. The conference shed light on themes such as diversity in library leadership and staffing, accessibility, and anti-racism.

Additionally, Mikale gained a deeper understanding of Whistler's unique context and was exposed to alternative processes and approaches. She expressed appreciation for two standout presentations: the BCLA EDI strategies in recruitment toolkit and the role of libraries in enhancing community accessibility.

3. Be an Inspiration

3.1 Policy review—500 and 600

Mikale initiated a discussion to review the frequency and format of the board's policy reviews, as well as alternative approaches that trustees could consider for policy development. Rather than conducting a comprehensive annual review of each policy in chronological order, Mikale proposed a new approach where the Director and the Board would identify critical policies requiring in-depth review, while allowing the library's senior management team to review the remaining policies with trustee input and advice as necessary. This revised method would provide the Board with more time to carefully examine and make decisions regarding policies that warrant deeper conversation.

Mikale also presented an overview of two central approaches to policymaking: administrative policies and values-guided policies. The decision to adopt a particular approach was left to the trustees, based on the specific context of each policy. Using policies 500 and 600 as examples, Mikale recommended maintaining policy 500 without modifications but highlighted the need for a closer examination of the programming section in policy 600. Mikale presented two options for policy 600, illustrating the contrasting characteristics of administrative and values-guided policies. The trustees engaged in a discussion weighing the advantages and disadvantages of both approaches

and ultimately voted in favor of option 2, which was modeled after Vancouver Public Library's programming policy.

Motion to approve changes with going with option 2 with a review in the fall.

Moved: Gail

Seconded: Bevin

Approved: unanimously

Committee, Representatives and LD Updates

1. Play well with others

1.1 RMOW Update

Ralph was absent from the meeting

1.2 Friends of the Library

Sheilagh mentioned that the Friends will have a meeting next week and they are currently organizing a bulb sale.

2. Make an Impact

2.1 Committee Updates – A quick update on Accomplishments YTD and looking ahead

i. Special Projects

Bevin enthusiastically shared that the Lil'wat rodeo was a blast. She was particularly excited to announce that her relationship building endeavors with Lil'wat cultural ambassadors has resulted in an upcoming public program at the library. Furthermore, it was decided that the book club will take place in October, with only one session.

ii. HR&G

Sarene reviewed the work that went into to the revised training policy, and noted that the next area of focus will be trustee recruitment. Gail then added that she is working towards developing the trustee skills matrix and will follow up via email in the coming weeks.

iii. Finance

Thomas expressed his satisfaction with the clarity and presentation of the Budget. He mentioned that the finance committee will now focus on working with the Director to develop strategies for Capital Reserve planning and improving transparency.

iv. Fundraising and Advocacy

Sheilagh's highlighted the committee's advocacy work through the launch of the Wonder Lab and the WB gala coat check service. She also mentioned that efforts to build relationships with other businesses are ongoing.

3. Make life better

3.1 Library Director Update

Mikale provided an overview of the recent activities at the library, including the Whistler session presentation with the RMOW (Resort Municipality of Whistler) and

the upcoming summer programs. They mentioned that the staff had been actively engaged in professional development by attending conferences and workshops.

Mikale also shared their involvement in various projects, such as ensuring compliance with the Accessibility BC Act, participating in the RMOW purpose workshop, promoting awareness during Local Government Awareness Week, establishing library partnerships, and working on space improvements. Furthermore, they announced that the library will be hosting the "Philippine Independence Day" event this Sunday.

3.2 Board Chair Update

Mike addressed the Executive Committee's workplan and expressed his satisfaction with Mikale's smooth transition into the role of director. He then emphasized the profound impact of the blanket exercise on all participants. Additionally, he stressed the importance of keeping Karen, the head of Community Engagement and Cultural Services, updated and maintaining a strong relationship with the RMOW (Resort Municipality of Whistler).

Furthermore, Mike commented on the arrival of a provincial grant and expressed gratitude for the successful launch of Wonder Lab and the impressive coat check fundraiser. He extended his appreciation to the trustees for their valuable input and dedicated work over the months. Mike concluded by acknowledging the efforts of Mikale and her staff, particularly in relation to the bridging plan.

500. Old Business

600. Agenda items for next meetings

- Privacy Policy
- 2024 Budget Planning
- Q2 Finance Report
- 2022 Annual Report
- Library Director Mid-year Performance review

700. In camera (placeholder)

*Motion to go in camera

800. Adjournment –

Motion to adjourn

Moved: Tina

Seconded: Gail

Approved unanimously

Next Meetings:

Executive – Tuesday August 29th, 2023

Board – Wednesday, September 6th, 2023