



# Ajax Public Library

## Ajax Public Library Board Minutes

### 6.1 – May 15, 2025, Meeting Minutes

**Place:** Board Room 1003, Grandview Kids Facility

**Date:** May 15, 2025

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Piyali Correya (Chair), Mallik Fernando, Deborah McDougall Jones (Vice-Chair), Sepelene Deonarine, Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi, Voytek Bialkowski, Deputy Mayor/Regional Councillor Sterling Lee, Douglas Miller, Rebecca Hayes

#### Regrets:

**Staff:**

Sarah Vaisler	- CLEO & Secretary/Treasurer
Jason Tooral	- Manager of Corporate Services
Melissa Redden	- Manager of Public Service
Sai Mahendran	- Executive Assistant

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

#### 2. Land Acknowledgement

We would like to begin this meeting by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is situated within the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas. More specifically, the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, signatories of the Gunshot Treaty of 1788 and the Williams Treaties of 1923. This land is, and will continue to be, home to the Indigenous Peoples. Let us acknowledge the mistakes and traumas of the past through authenticity and support truth and reconciliation. Let us engage and celebrate Indigenous communities by being leaders of action in acknowledging the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations towards truth and reconciliation. Let us keep these principles close, as we continue towards truth and reconciliation and as we move forward with kindness and respect as a community.

#### 3. Approval of the Agenda

25-05/01

Moved by: Deborah McDougall Jones

Seconded by: Rebecca Hayes

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approves the agenda of the May 15, 2025, Board Meeting.

**CARRIED**

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**4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None.

**5. Guest Presentation:**

Sepelene Deonarine joined at 7:05 p.m.

**5.1 2024 Audited Financial Statements – Steve Stewart, Deloitte LLP**

Mr. Stewart provided the Library Board a comprehensive analysis of the Library's financials for 2024. Through his presentation, Mr. Stewart covered the year-end report, draft financial statements and highlighted important audit risks. Mr. Stewart informed the Library Board that it was a clean audit for 2024 and found no discrepancies.

Regional Councillor Sterling Lee joined at 7:18 p.m.

**8.4 2024 Audited Financial Statements**

25-05/02      Moved by: Douglas Miller  
Seconded by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board  
approves the 2024 audited financial statements  
as presented.

**CARRIED**

**6. Consent Agenda**

25-05/03      Moved by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi  
Seconded by: Deborah McDougall Jones

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board  
approves the Consent Agenda as distributed.

**CARRIED**

**7. Correspondence**

**7.1 Customer Testimonial – Ajax Chess Club members**

Members of Ajax Chess Club praised the strong sense of community within the group, highlighting the library's welcoming environment as a key contributor. They described it as a valuable social space where people of all ages can connect, learn, and build friendships through regular workshops and quiet, inclusive gatherings.

**8. Other Business**

**8.1 TAC Update – Ananya, TAC Representative**

Ananya provided an update on current TAC activities, highlighting the focus on summer programs, such as the weekly book club. She also noted that the interview process for next year's TAC members will begin in the summer.

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## **8.2 Council Update – Regional Councillor Sterling Lee**

Regional Councillor Sterling Lee praised the Volunteer Appreciation event held by the Library, highlighting the strong attendance from TAC members and other volunteers. He shared that the Province has removed toll fees on Highway 407 from Pickering to Clarington starting June 1, 2025. Councillor Lee informed the board of a new DRPS hate crime unit being established. He also noted the upcoming Mayor's Gala on June 14, themed "Boots and Bowties."

## **8.3 Internal Monitoring Report – E.L. 3.2 Asset Protection**

25-05/04      Moved by: Voytek Bialkowski  
Seconded by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receives the monitoring report EL 3.2 Asset Protection and agrees that it provides reasonable interpretation of the policy and evidence of compliance.

**CARRIED**

## **Internal Monitoring Report – E.L. 3.6 Financial Condition**

25-05/05      Moved by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi  
Seconded by: Voytek Bialkowski

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receives the monitoring report EL 3.6 Financial Condition and agrees that it provides reasonable interpretation of the policy and evidence of compliance.

**CARRIED**

## **8.5 Committee Updates**

Community Engagement Committee – Library Services Spring 2025 Report to Council has been submitted to Clerks.

## **8.6 Announcements**

Drag Queen Story Time (DQST) will be held at the Main Branch on June 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Durham Pride Parade will be held at Town Hall, decorations will begin at 11:00 a.m., with parade participation starting at 12:30 p.m.

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**9. Closed Session (Commenced at 7:50 p.m.)**

25-05/06      Moved by: Douglas Miller  
Seconded by: Rebecca Hayes

Motion that Ajax Public Library Board move  
into Closed Session.

**CARRIED**

**Open Meeting (8:10 p.m.)**

**Ratify Decisions made in Closed Session**

25-05/07      Moved by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi  
Seconded by: Deborah McDougall Jones

Motion that all decisions made in Closed  
Session be ratified.

**CARRIED**

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

25-05/08      Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee  
Seconded by: Deborah McDougall Jones

Motion that the meeting be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

Next meeting:                      Thursday June 19, 2025  
7:00 p.m. Multi-Purpose Room, Audley Branch.