



Ajax Public Library

Ajax Public Library Board Minutes

7.1 – February 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Place: Rotary Room, Main Branch

Date: February 20, 2025

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

Regrets: Deborah McDougall Jones, Douglas Miller

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 7:00 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.

Rebecca Hayes joined the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

25-02/01 Moved by: Rebecca Hayes
 Seconded by: Mallik Fernando

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board defers the Election of the Board's Executive Positions to the March Board Meeting.

CARRIED

3. Approval of the Agenda

25-02/02

Moved by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi
Seconded by: Sterling Lee

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approves the agenda of the February 20, 2025, Board Meeting.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

5. Presentation:

6.1 Sarah Vaisler (Chief Librarian and Executive Officer) – Strategic Master Plan Update

Sarah updated the Library Board on progress of the Library's Strategic Master Plan. Of the 40 recommendations, 12 are complete, 15 are in progress, and 2 are delayed.

6. Consent Agenda

Items 7.2 Chief Librarian's Report and 7.4 Staff Report – November Financial Report were pulled for further discussion in Other Business as items 9.8 & 9.9.

25-02/03

Moved by: Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Voytek Bialkowski

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

CARRIED

7. Correspondence

7.1 TAC's Black History Month Video – *The Next 10*

A video compilation for Black History Month by TAC was presented to the Board, highlighting the need for inclusive representation and a more equitable future. TAC members advocated for greater diversity in leadership and media, emphasizing equal opportunities and the dismantling of inequality.

8. Other Business

9.1 TAC Update – Hansika J. Shetty

Hansika shared with the board about TAC’s successful Study Hall held at the Audley branch, where study kits, snacks, and school supplies were distributed. She outlined upcoming TAC events, including a young adult movie night during March Break, Free Comic Book Day, an end-of-school game night, and a summer book club.

9.2 Council Update – Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Regional Councilor Sterling Lee praised the communications and operations teams for effectively managing snowstorm challenges. He shared insights from the OLA Super Conference, including discussions on STEM programs, trends in public librarianship, and the associated costs. Regional Councilor Lee emphasized the important role of libraries in advocating for intellectual freedom and highlighted the need to have strong relationships between Library Boards and municipal councils.

9.3 Internal Monitoring Report – E.L. 3.1 Access to Facilities and Resources

25-02/04

Moved by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi
Seconded by: Sterling Lee

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receives the monitoring report EL 3.1 Access to Facilities and Resources to the Board and agrees that it provides reasonable interpretation of the policy and evidence of compliance.

CARRIED

Internal Monitoring Report – E.L. 3.4 Compensation and Benefits

25-02/05

Moved by: Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Voytek Bialkowski

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receives the monitoring report EL 3.4 Compensation and Benefits to the Board and agrees that it provides reasonable interpretation of the policy and evidence of compliance.

CARRIED

9.4 Staff Report – 2025 Operating and Capital Budget Report

25-02/06 Moved by: Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Sepelene Deonarine

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approve the 2025 Operating Budget of \$7,855,800.

CARRIED

9.5 2025 OLA Super Conference Overview – *Discussion*

Board members who attended the 2025 OLA Super Conference provided an overview of sessions on incident management and fostering positive relationships with municipalities, community, and council. Attendees shared that they felt that Ajax Public Library and Board was effective and competent.

9.6 Committee Updates

Board Development Committee – The committee has scheduled internal and external presentations for the 2025 Board meetings.

9.7 Announcements

Ajax Public Library will be hosting a Freedom to Read event on February 28 at the Main Branch.

Provincial Elections voting day will be held on February 27.

9.8 Chief Librarian’s Report – December 2024 - February 2025

25-02/07 Moved by: Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receive this report for information.

CARRIED

9.9 Staff Report – November 2024 Financial Report

25-02/08 Moved by: Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receive this report for information.

CARRIED

9. Closed Session (Commenced at 8:08 p.m.)

25-02/09 Moved by: Malik Fernando
Seconded by: Voytek Bialkowski

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board move into Closed Session.

CARRIED

Open Meeting (8:36 p.m.)

Ratify Decisions made in Closed Session

25-02/10 Moved by: Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Rebecca Hayes

Motion that all decisions approved in the Closed Session be ratified.

CARRIED

10. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

25-02/11 Moved by: Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Rebecca Hayes

Motion that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Next meeting:

Thursday March 20, 2025
7:00 p.m. Rotary Room, Main Branch.