



# Ajax Public Library

## Ajax Public Library Board Minutes

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### 6.1 February 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes

**Place:** Rotary Room, Main Branch

**Date:** February 15, 2024

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

**Present:** Mallik Fernando, Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi, Piyali Correya, Rebecca Hayes, Regional Councillor Sterling Lee and Sepelene Deonarine.

**Regrets:** Deborah McDougall Jones, Doug Miller and Voytek Bialkowski.

**Staff:**

Sarah Vaisler	- CLEO & Secretary/Treasurer
Jason Tooral	- Manager of Corporate Services
Melissa Redden	- Manager of Public Services
Emilija Tasovska	- Coordinator of Human Resources and Corporate Services
Laura McEwan	- Coordinator of Collection Services
Kiley Percy	- Coordinator of Marketing and Communications
Maria-Lise Dobri	- Archives Services Librarian

#### 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. **Introductions & Election of the Board's Executive Positions (Chair and Vice-Chair)**

The Chair will declare nominations open for the position of Chair.

24-02/01

Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling  
Seconded by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi

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Motion that Piyali Correya be nominated for Chair.

**CARRIED**

24-02/02

Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling  
Seconded by: Rebecca Hayes

Motion that nominations for Chair be closed.

**CARRIED**

Piyali Correya assumes the position of Chair and declares that nominations are open for Vice-Chair.

24-02/03

Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling  
Seconded by: Mallik Fernando

Motion that Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi be nominated for Vice-Chair.

**CARRIED**

24-02/04

Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling  
Seconded by: Rebecca Hayes

Motion that nominations for Vice-Chair be closed.

**CARRIED**

Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi assumes the position of Vice-Chair.

#### **4. Approval of the Agenda**

24-02/05

Moved by: Mallik Fernando  
Seconded by: Rebecca Hayes

Motion to approve the Agenda as distributed.

**CARRIED**

#### **5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None.

#### **6. Guest Présentation – Archives Services Librarian, Maria-Lise Dobri**

Maria-Lise Dobri presented to the Board the collection overview and archives functions, accomplishments, changes, challenges, and what the archives will be taking on next. Maria-Lise fielded questions from the Board and provided clarification on topics discussed.

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## 7. Approval of the Consent Agenda

24-02/06

Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee  
Seconded by: Sepelene Deonarine

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as distributed.

**CARRIED**

## 8. Correspondence

### 8.1 Customer Testimonial – Nadine Learn

Nadine Learn provided a video testimonial on her experience of using the Makerspace, located at the McLean Branch. The customer was thrilled the Library offers such a space which allows her and her family to get creative together while also giving the Ajax community, as a collective, an opportunity to be able to create experiences.

### 8.2 OLA – School Boards Banning and Restricting Books

The Ontario Library Association (OLA) is deeply concerned by the growing number of attempts to restrict access to books by some school boards. The position of OLA is that all young people deserve to not only see themselves reflected in the books they read, but to also be exposed to worldviews and lived experiences of others, particularly those of marginalized and equity-deserving groups.

### 8.3 Herizon House

The Herizon House thanked the Ajax Public Library for their kindness, generosity, and monetary donations that were put together by staff through a voluntary program, APL Cares.

## 9. Other Business

### 9.1 TAC Update – Rachael Wright, TAC, Co-President

Rachael Wright reported to the Library Board that the Teen Advisory Committee has completed Black history videos and a display case located in the Main Branch front entrance. The TAC diversity committee is looking to host an additional Black History event in March, as well as an Asian heritage month in May. During March break, there will be a tubing program as well as a graffiti wall at the Audley Branch. TAC is working on extending the TD Summer Reading Club to teens, as well as starting a writing contest for this coming summer.

### 9.2 Council Update

Regional Councillor Sterling Lee reported:

- The Mayors budget took place in January; the blended percentage increase between the Town and the Region is 6.58%.

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- At this budget meeting, the Library was able to secure approval for 3 out of 4 business cases which were the conversion of a part-time to full-time Marketing Assistant position, a full-time Coordinator of Safety and Operations, and Contracted Security Services additions.

### **9.3 Internal Monitoring Report – EL 3.1 Access to Facilities and Resources**

24-02/07 Moved by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi  
Seconded by Mallik Fernando

That the Board receives the monitoring report for EL 3.1 Access to Facilities and Resources and agrees that it provides reasonable interpretation of the policy and evidence of compliance.

**CARRIED**

### **Internal Monitoring Report - EL 3.4 Compensation and Benefits**

24-02/08 Moved by: Mallik Fernando  
Seconded by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

That the Board receives the monitoring report for EL 3.4 Compensation and Benefits and agrees that it provides reasonable interpretation of the policy and evidence of compliance.

**CARRIED**

### **9.4 Staff Report - 2024 Operating and Capital Budget**

24-02/09 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee  
Seconded by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi

That the Ajax Public Library Board approve the 2024 Operating Budget of \$7,438,300.

**CARRIED**

### **9.5 Staff Report – Library Board Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom**

24-02/10 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee  
Seconded by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi

That the Board approve and adopt the statement on intellectual freedom as presented.

**CARRIED**

### **9.6 Board Assembly Appointment**

24-02/11 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee  
Seconded by: Mallik Fernando

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That Sepelene Deonarine be Ajax Public Library's representative on the Ontario Library Service Board Assembly.

**CARRIED**

### 9.7 OLA Super Conference Overview

Sepelene Deonarine and Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi attended the OLA Bootcamp and shared their experience and take away for the sessions they attended. Sepelene also took part in the Gala where the Ajax Public Library received the Angus Mowat Award of Excellence for the Collection Diversity Audit and the OLA Leslie Fowlie Intellectual Freedom and Ontario Library Board Association Joyce Cunningham Library Board of the Year Award.

### 9.8 Committee Updates

CLEO Performance Appraisal – No further update.

Policy Review – No further updates.

Community Engagement – No further updates.

Board Development – No further update.

### 9.9 Announcements

None.

## 10. Closed Session

24-02/12 Moved by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi  
Seconded by: Mallik Fernando

Motion to move into closed session.

**CARRIED**

24-02/13 Moved by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi  
Seconded by: Mallik Fernando

Motion to exit closed session.

**CARRIED**

24-02/14 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee  
Seconded by: Mallik Fernando

Motion to approve the motions approved in closed session.

**CARRIED**

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**11. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

24-02/15

Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee  
Seconded by: Mallik Fernando

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

**CARRIED**

**Next meeting:**

Thursday March 21, 2024  
7:00 p.m. Rotary Room, Main Branch