



Ajax Public Library Board 6.1 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: October 16, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Place: Rotary Room, Main Branch

Library Board Present

Piyali Correya (Chair)

Deborah McDougall Jones (Vice-Chair)

Voytek Bialkowski

Sepelene Deonarine

Mallik Fernando

Douglas Miller

Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi

Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Regrets

Rebecca Hayes

Library Staff

Sarah Vaisler, Chief Librarian & Executive Officer and Secretary/Treasurer

Melissa Redden, Manager of Public Service

Jason Tooral, Manager of Corporate Services

Joanne Yellapa, Coordinator of Performance Measures and Special Projects

Sai Mahendran, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Regional Councillor Sterling Lee joined at 7:06 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

25-10/01

Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Douglas Miller

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approves the agenda of the October 16, 2025, Board Meeting.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

Voytek Bialkowski joined at 7:10 p.m.

5. Guest Presentation:

5.1 Joanne Yellapa, Coordinator of Performance Measures and Special Projects – Service Area Update

Joanne Yellapa provided the Board with an overview of the Library's performance measures and ongoing projects, noting increased in-person Branch visits and a 19% rise in Social Return on Investment (SROI) through the Valuing Ontario Libraries Toolkit (VOLT). Joanne shared benchmarking data against comparator Library systems and reported that the Library has received a total of \$190,669 in grant funding since 2020, supporting space enhancements, innovation, and initiatives including the Library Strategic Master Plan.

6. Consent Agenda

25-10/02

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

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

CARRIED

7. Correspondence

None.

8. Other Business

8.1 TAC Update

The Chair recognized the value of the Teen Advisory Committee's (TAC) representation at Board meetings. The Board was notified that a new TAC Co-President and Board Representative has been elected, Tanvi Lee. The Board looks forward to meeting Tanvi Lee at a future meeting.

No Updates – TAC Representative was not present.

8.2 Council Update – Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Regional Councillor Sterling Lee provided updates on efforts to improve diversity within DRPS, highlighting progress in hiring and a current focus on the Senior Management team. He noted that a motion will be brought forward to request the continuation of the automated speed enforcement program and a motion to explore marketing opportunities for regional assets has been passed, with a feasibility report expected in Q1/Q2.

8.3 Internal Monitoring Report – Executive Limitations 3.3 Communications and Counsel to the Board

25-10/03 Moved by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi
Seconded by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receives the monitoring report EL 3.3 Communication and Counsel to the Board and agrees that it provides reasonable interpretation of the policy and evidence of compliance.

CARRIED

8.4 Internal Monitoring Report – Executive Limitations 3.7 Financial Planning/Budgeting Policy

25-10/04 Moved by: Douglas Miller
Seconded by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receives the monitoring report EL 3.7 Financial Planning/Budgeting Policy and agrees that it provides reasonable interpretation of the policy and evidence of compliance.

CARRIED

8.5 Board Report – Review of Ends Policy

25-10/05 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Sepelene Deonarine

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approves the Ends Policy as presented.

CARRIED

8.6 Committee Updates

Community Engagement Committee – Meeting on October 20, to discuss report to Council, to be presented in November.

8.7 Village Branch Commemoration

A commemorative video featuring archival photos of the Village Branch was shared with the Board. The video was shared in recognition of the Town's 70th anniversary and the anniversary of the Village Branch closing in October 2019, after 128 years of service.

8.8 Announcements

None.

9. Closed Session (Commenced at 7:53 p.m.)

9.1 To discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual.

25-10/06	Moved by: Sepelene Deonarine Seconded by: Douglas Miller
	Motion that Ajax Public Library Board move into Closed Session. CARRIED
25-10/07	Moved by: Voytek Bialkowski Seconded by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi
	Motion that Ajax Public Library Board rise from Closed Session. CARRIED

Open Meeting (8:05 p.m.)

Ratify Decisions made in Closed Session

25-10/08	Moved by: Mallik Fernando Seconded by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi
	Motion that all decisions made in Closed Session be ratified. CARRIED

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

25-10/09	Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee Seconded by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi
	Motion that the meeting be adjourned. CARRIED

Next meeting: Thursday November 20, 2025
7:00 p.m. Rotary Room, Main Branch

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