



Ajax Public Library Board

6.1 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: May 21, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Place: Rotary Room, Main Branch

Library Board Present

Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi (Vice-Chair)
Voytek Bialkowski
Sepelene Deonarine
Mallik Fernando

Rebecca Hayes
Douglas Miller
Deborah McDougall Jones

Regrets

Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Absent

Piyali Correya (excused)

Library Staff

Sarah Vaisler, Chief Librarian & Executive Officer and Secretary/Treasurer
Jason Tooral, Manager of Corporate Services
Kiley Percy, Interim Manager of Public Service
Sai Mahendran, Executive Assistant

Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi chaired the meeting.

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.

3. Approval of the Agenda

26-05/01

Moved by: Deborah McDougall Jones
Seconded by: Sepelene Deonarine

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approves the amended agenda of the May 21, 2026, Board Meeting.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

5. Presentation:

5.1 2025 Audited Financial Statements - Steve Stewart & Khyati Sood – Deloitte LLP

A comprehensive breakdown of the Library's financials for 2025 was presented to the Library Board. The Library Board was provided the year-end report, draft financial statements and important risks associated with the audit. The Library Board was informed that there was a clean audit for 2025 and found no issues.

26-05/02

Moved by: Deborah McDougall Jones
Seconded by: Douglas Miller

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approve the 2025 audited financial statements as presented

CARRIED

6. Consent Agenda

Items 6.1 & 6.9 were pulled for further discussion as item 8.10 & 8.11 in Other Business.

26-05/03

Moved by: Deborah McDougall Jones
Seconded by: Sepelene Deonarine

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

CARRIED

7. Correspondence

7.1 Customer-Staff Feedback Video

A video compilation featuring customer feedback on Library staff was presented to the Library Board.

8. Other Business

8.1 TAC Update – Tanvi Lee, TAC Co-President

TAC Update was deferred as TAC representative was not present.

8.2 Chair Update

No Chair update was provided.

8.3 Council Update – Deputy Mayor Sterling Lee

Council Update was deferred as Deputy Mayor Lee was not present.

8.4 Internal Monitoring Report – Executive Limitations 3.2 Asset Protection

26-05/04

Moved by: Mallik Fernando

Seconded by: Sepelene Deonarine

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

8.5 Internal Monitoring Report – Executive Limitations 3.6 Financial Condition

26-05/05

Moved by: Sepelene Deonarine

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

8.6 StaffReport – 2025 Draft Audited Financial Statements

26-05/06

Moved by: Douglas Miller

Seconded by: Mallik Fernando

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approve the transfer of the 2025 operating surplus available of \$199,752 to the Stabilization Reserve.

CARRIED

8.7 Staff Report – Library’s Position on Alberta Bill 28

26-05/07 Moved by: Rebecca Hayes
Seconded by: Deborah McDougall Jones

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board express its strong disagreement to Alberta Bill 28, the Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026, which transfers authority over public library collections and customer access from locally appointed library boards and professional library staff to provincial government ministers;

AND THAT this Board reaffirm its commitment to intellectual freedom, customer privacy, equitable access to information, and the principle of local governance of public libraries, consistent with Ontario's Public Libraries Act, R.S.O. 1990, e.P44;

AND THAT this Board direct the CLEO to communicate this resolution to the Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries, copying the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations, and the Canadian Urban Libraries Council.

CARRIED

8.8 OLS Board Assembly Meeting Update

Sepelene Deonarine presented an update from the Spring 2026 Board Assembly meeting. Sepelene provided the Library Board an overview of the OLS Strategic Plan: 2026-2030 and provided upcoming training opportunities and resources for Board succession planning, recruitment and onboarding.

8.9 Committee Updates

Community Engagement Committee – Report to Council is currently under revision by the Committee and to submitted to Council in June.

8.10 Minutes from the meeting of April 16, 2026

Rebecca Hayes requested the amended Library Board Recruitment Policy be distributed to Library Board members.

26-05/08 Moved by: Deborah McDougall Jones
Seconded by: Sepelene Deonarine

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approve the minutes from the meeting of April 16, 2026.

CARRIED

8.11 Board Self-Evaluation – GP 3.10 Closed Meeting Management

Rebecca Hayes raised the importance of providing honest responses during the Board Self-Evaluation process. Rebecca Hayes questioned the necessity of moving into Closed Session on April 16, 2026.

26-05/09 Moved by: Deborah McDougall Jones
Seconded by: Mallik Fernando

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receive item 6.9 Board Self-Evaluation - GP 3.10 Closed Meeting Management for information.

CARRIED

9. Announcements

Sepelene shared winning an award with Diabetes Canada.

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

26-05/08 Moved by: Deborah McDougall Jones
Seconded by: Voytek Bialkowski

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

CARRIED

10.1 Governance matters arising from Council's May 21, 2026 decision.

To discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual.

Open Session (9:06p.m.)

No Decisions were made in Closed Session.

11. Election of Board Executive Position(Vice-Chair)

Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi (acting as chair) declares nominations open for Vice-Chair position.

26-05/09 Moved by: Rebecca Hayes
Seconded by: Sepelene Deonarine

Motion that Deborah McDougall Jones be nominated for Vice-Chair.

CARRIED

Deborah McDougall Jones assumes the position of Vice Chair

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

26-05/10 Moved by: Deborah McDougall Jones
Seconded by: Sepelene Deonarine

Motion that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Next meeting: Thursday, June 18, 2026
7:00 p.m. Rotary Room, Main Branch