

Winnipeg Public Library Board (WPLB)
July 5, 2010 5:00 p.m.
Pembina Trail Library, 2724 Pembina Hwy

Final approved minutes

Present: C. Kolybabi-Labossière, Acting Chair; V. DePape, D. MacEwan, J. Mabee, J. St. Hill, R. Walker, A. Wallace, J. Watt and H. Graham

Regrets: R. Burgess; A. Hoefl, D. Hultin, B. McDonald, Councillors M. Pagtakhan and H. Smith, S. Singh, and T. Surgenor

Guests: Kamini Madansingh, Branch Head / Librarian, Pembina Trail Library

1. Call to order

C. Kolybabi-Labossière called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. She shared regrets from Chair R. Burgess, and three others who were unable to attend, and noted that two others had timing conflicts and might either arrive later or miss the meeting. A quorum is eight voting members.

2. Approval of the agenda

The revised agenda was approved on a motion by J. Mabee and seconded by D. MacEwan.

3. Guest speaker K. Madansingh

R. Walker said that Pembina Trail Branch Head Kamini Madansingh has been at Winnipeg Public Library since 1990 and is one of the system's veteran branch heads. Ms Madansingh described the Branch's origins, current use, programs, outreach and upgrades. (See Appendix A.) In conclusion, she offered a post-meeting tour to Board members. Ms Kolybabi-Labossière thanked Ms. Madansingh for her informative presentation.

4. Approval of Minutes

The Admin Assistant's two questions about the minutes were resolved. The amended minutes of June 7, 2010 were approved on a motion by Atarra, and seconded by J. Mabee.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

These matters will be covered during regular reports.

6. Reports

a. Vice-Chair

LAC Chairs' meeting

Ms Kolybabi-Labossière explained that she had to postpone the planned June meeting of LAC Chairs, due to her emergency surgery. The meeting has been rescheduled for September 21 at St. Boniface Library.

Books2Eat

Ms Kolybabi-Labossière and J. St. Hill met with the Library's Head of Readers Services and will meet again on August 13. This topic will be on the agenda for the LAC Chairs' meeting.

MLTA newsletter

The latest newsletter was emailed to Board members. Ms Kolybabi-Labossière shared R. Burgess' comment that it was nice to see our Library Board so well represented in the newsletter. Ms Burgess also asked that her thanks be passed on to Dr. MacEwan for his well-written contributions to the newsletter.

b. Treasurer

Treasurer J. Watt distributed a financial statement, dated July 5, 2010, showing current 2010 expenditures as compared with budgeted figures.

c. Executive Committee

Strategic plan

Ms Kolybabi-Labossière gave an update on the replies to the Request for Proposal that the Board issued, to develop the next strategic plan. Executive Committee recommended the acceptance of the proposal from The Training Source. Mr. Watt explained the process that will be implemented. In addition to facilitating the Board's discussions for the content of the strategic plan, the consultant will draft the plan.

MOTION: J. Watt / V. DePape

That the Board accept the proposal by The Training Source to conduct a strategic planning process and prepare a strategic plan at a cost of \$5,950 and applicable taxes.

Carried by the seven voting members present

H. Graham will contact absentees; at least one more affirmative vote is needed in support of this motion.

Note: The recorder sent an email on July 6, 2010, to those absent from the meeting. Two affirmative votes were received in support of the above motion, thereby reaching a quorum. MOTION CARRIED.

It was suggested that the Board consider getting a GST number. Mr. Walker will follow up with the City.

Members selected November 6 as the date for the Board gathering to develop the content of the strategic plan. H. Graham will verify that the consultant would still be available on that date. The other option is November 20.

Advocacy

The next meeting of the Advocacy Committee will be on July 19. Although St. James-Assiniboia Library had been set as the meeting location, at the request of participants, Ms Kolybabi-Labossière will ask R. Burgess if the location can be changed to an alternate location.

d. Community Outreach Committee

Ms Mabee said that all the reports from the 2009 Language and Literacy award winners arrived by the deadline of June 30, 2010. At the next Community Outreach Committee meeting, on September 23, members will discuss the 2011 Language and Literacy form and report format. A certificate will be designed for future grant recipients.

e. Manager of Library Services

Mr. Walker distributed his report, which is attached in Appendix B. He provided updates on branch renovations, iEnglish for EAL learners, the Writer-in-Residence program, St. John's Library open house during the St. John's High School anniversary reunion, and the report on Library services to Aboriginal peoples.

He invited the Board to provide a representative to participate in the working group that will review the report provided by Leskiw and Associates, and will develop an implementation plan. As D. Hultin had been the Board's representative on the project's steering committee, members suggested that Mr. Walker ask Mr. Hultin if he would be willing to join the working group.

Copyright

Information on the Federal Government's newly announced copyright legislation, Bill C-32, had been distributed to Board members. (Link to the Canadian Library Association's response to the Bill: <http://www.cla.ca/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&CONTENTID=9634&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm>.)

Mr. Walker stressed that libraries are all about access to information and anything that would restrict that would be a concern. Libraries agree with the right of ownership. The current Bill looks like a reasonable balance.

f. Board Reps to Library Advisory Committees (LACs)

Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan

Mr. Watt said that the LAC met on June 9 at Sir William Stephenson Library. The staff liaison, A. McCulloch, reported on activities at the latter branch: collection revision, and the provision of more space for DVDs and audio books; successful computer courses, and organics and genealogical programs for adults; and well attended children's programs. In addition to the Summer Reading programs, the branch will host a Family Literacy Fund event. The Branch co-hosted a very successful half-day of stories and activities for Philippine Heritage Week. The Youth Advisory Council is still going strong.

City Centre

The two Board reps were unable to attend the LAC met on June 10 at West End Library.

g. Speakers' Bureau

An update was tabled till D. Hultin is present.

h. Winnipeg Library Foundation

Mr. Walker said the Foundation, as a one of the artist sponsors for the Mayor's Luncheon for the Arts, invited two Library Board representatives to join some Winnipeg Library Foundation members at the luncheon on June 18. R. Burgess and J. Watt attended on behalf of the Board. The event, in part a celebration of Winnipeg as the Cultural Capital of Canada 2010, included the presentation of Winnipeg Arts Council awards in four categories. There were 400 – 500 people in attendance. Both Mr. Walker and Ms Burgess (via email) said that the event provided an excellent networking opportunity.

i. Manitoba Public Library Services

Report was tabled, until T. Surgenor would be present.

7. New Business

a. MLTA award

Ms Burgess had suggested a nominee for the Manitoba Library Trustees' award, the application deadline for which is September 30.

MOTION: V. DePape / J. Mabee

That the Winnipeg Public Library Board nominate Sandy Hyman, former Winnipeg Public Library Board Chair, and currently Co-Chair of the Winnipeg Library Foundation, for the Manitoba Library Trustees' Association Trustee of Distinction award.

Carried

Ms Graham will prepare the information. Mr. Walker will write a letter of support.

8. Other Business

None.

9. Date and Location of Next Meeting(s)

Due to renovations, meeting locations will be changed to:

September 13: Louis Riel Library, at 5:00 p.m.

October 4: Osborne Library

November 8: Henderson Library

Mr. Walker will confirm these locations.

10. Adjournment

Mr. DePape moved adjournment at 6:15 p.m.

Appendix A

Pembina Trail Library – report to WPL Board June 2010

In September 1987, the Pembina Trail Library opened its doors to the public. Previous to this the community was serviced by a book mobile which was located in the parking lot of the Zellers mall, which is not far from here. The name Pembina Trail was chosen because of its historic significance, commemorating the trail's historic role in the development and expansion of Canada's western settlements.

This library is designated a community library and so previous to February 21, 2010 we had the same hour as branches such as Louis Riel, River Heights and others. On February 21, 2010, we began opening on Sundays. I think this has been a modest success, seeing as we average about 175 customers on any given Sunday.

The Pembina Trail Library is the 4th busiest library in the system. Our circulation for 2009 was 379,642. We have a consistently high number of new patrons registering every year. In 2009 we had 1307 patrons register for library cards. From January to May of this year we have already had 412 new patrons register. This is partly due to our proximity to the University of Manitoba, and the new developments in the area. We also have a high number of non-resident patrons from the surrounding rural communities.

In April 2010, we put our holds out into the public area, and this has been a huge success. Everyone has commented on how much easier it makes things for them.

* * *

This library has always been a place where people come to read the newspapers, students come to do their homework or to study. We also have tutors using our facilities with their students. On any given day one can see many people using our free Wifi. Our public computers are so heavily used that in the last little while it seems as if we always have one being repaired at IT. We have 13 public computers, 8 adult, 4 children's and one express terminal. We have 2 terminals with Word, and these are always in demand. We will soon be having 5 which will help alleviate the demand.

The Pembina Trail library serves the Fort Garry South area, but also some areas of Fort Garry North such as Whyte Ridge. This is a very large area with a population of approximately 43,160, and is continually growing with the addition of Waverly West. It is an extremely diverse community. Residents come from China, India, the U.K., Pakistan, the Caribbean, Vietnam, Korea, Latin America, Iran, Afghanistan, Nepal and Somalia and other countries too numerous to mention. The last three are recent additions to the community. There is also a sizeable number of French speaking, Metis and Aboriginal people living in the area. I have a small multilingual collection with languages such as Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Spanish, Farsi, etc. If I get requests I will add additional languages.

Many of the new immigrants come from cultures where education is viewed as one of the most important factors in their lives, if not the most important. Therefore, they are avid library users;

they are also some of the first to enroll their children in library programs. It is an added bonus to them that these programs are free.

There are many schools close to the library, the Fort Richmond Collegiate, Dalhousie elementary, Acadia junior high, Ryerson and Bairdmore elementary. These are all within walking distance so we get class visits from many of them, also their students are always in studying, doing homework etc.

We have hosted in the past years a number of students who need work experience. Many of these have come from the Pembina Trails school division, but there have also been students from RRC, from their ESL and library technician programs. This summer, we will be sharing a student with the Fort Garry library from the Mennonite Brethren church.

Programming, especially children's programming has always been widely successful at this branch. In 2008 (the most recent figures available) we had 4,384 attend our programs. This number with the exception of Millennium is the highest number of attendees of all the branches. We had 4,058 children attend our programs and 326 adults attend YA/adult programs. Our 4 pre-school programs are filled within 2 hours of us opening on the day of registration. If you call after lunch, you are out of luck. We have parents lining up outside the building to be one of the first ones in.

Our summer reading club programs are greatly anticipated by the community. Last year we had 500 kids register. We have consistently had the highest number of volunteers and students participate in our Read Aloud Program. From the middle of June we start getting inquiries as to when can parents sign their kids up for summer reading. Registration for summer reading 2010 began on Monday June 21, by Tuesday June 22 our 3, 6-12 aged programs were filled with waiting lists started (we took a maximum of 35 children and then started a waiting list), all our other programs are filled. We also have 295 kids already registered in summer reading.

We have requests every year from schools in the area to do presentations at their kindergarten fairs. We try to accommodate them as best as we can. We also, if asked, will go to schools in the area to talk about the summer reading club.

We had our furniture re-upholstered last year and this has helped to "brighten-up" the branch. Approximately a year or two ago, we decided to create a small YA "nook" for teenagers. This was a direct result of the explosion in YA publishing and the interest shown by teens in the area. This is now one of the collections with a very high usage.

In order to keep in touch with what's going on in the community, I try to attend the meetings of the Fort Garry Network. This is a group of social agencies and community leaders who meet to share information on programs, and issues of concern in the community.

Appendix B

Manager's Report July 5, 2010

1. Branch Renovations – Update

Louis Riel Library - Renovations are almost complete. The branch is slated to reopen next week. We are planning a celebration in September.

Henderson Library - Demolition is complete. Construction work is beginning this week as permits are all now in place. Date of completion is still to be determined.

Cornish Library – The Mulvey School “Pizza Garden” has now been planted at the back of the library. Work on the larger gardens should be beginning soon.

Osborne Library - Colour schemes have been chosen. Tenders are out for furniture, shelving, and construction work. Date of closure is still to be determined.

2. iEnglish for EAL Learners

A seven week program that helps EAL learners improve their English skills will be held at Millennium Library from July 12 – August 26. This is a partnership with Manitoba Labour and Immigration. The program already has full registration.

3. Writer in Residence Program

The Writer in Residence for the 2010-2011 program year has been selected. They are just finalizing contracts and the name of the person will be announced in mid-August. Thanks to Vernon DePape for assisting in the selection process this year.

4. St. John's Open House

On June 20, 2011 the St. John's Library opened for a special Sunday day of operation as part of the St. John's High School Reunion. 48 former students visited the library to reminisce about library service when they were students at St. John's High.

5. Leskiw and Associates Report

Bev Dyck and Chris Leskiw presented their report to a group of approximately 60 library staff a week ago. Planning is now underway to set up a working group to review the report, develop an action plan for implementing the recommendations and rolling the information out to staff and public. We will be looking for a Library Board member to participate in that process.