

Winnipeg Public Library Board (WPLB)
April 4, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.
Millennium Library, Anhang Room

Final approved minutes

Present: R. Burgess, Chair; Councillor J. Browaty, D. Chung, A. Hoeft, B. McDonald, D. MacEwan, J. Mabee, I. Michalchyshyn, J. St. Hill, K. Shwaluke, S. Singh, T. Surgenor, R. Walker, A. Wallace and H. Graham

Regrets: Councillor R. Eadie, V. DePape, and B. Zuk

Guests: Librarians L. Schluter and S. Walker

1. Call to order

Chair R. Burgess called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

2. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved on a motion by J. Mabee and seconded by K. Shwaluke.

3. Approval of minutes of March 7, 2011

Clarification and various amendments were noted.

The amended minutes of the March 7, 2011 meeting of WPLB were approved on a motion by Councillor Browaty and seconded by I. Michalchyshyn.

4. Thinking Inside the Box: Portable Programs for Public Libraries

R. Walker introduced Ms. L. Schluter, who has been a librarian at Winnipeg Public Library for one year, and Ms. S. Walker, who is Millennium Library's teen librarian and winner of the Library Board's 2009 Montgomery outreach grant. Ms. Schluter and Ms. Walker were invited to present a session at the February Ontario Library Association SuperConference, about portable programs for libraries. They shared with Board members highlights of their conference presentation, including video clips, on WPL's Family Literacy Fun Days, a single day drop-in program for families, and Teen Programs-in- a- Box, which is packaged programming that can be shipped to staff in library branches.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. Keewatin Median Cut

Mr. Walker will be meeting with a representative from the Philippine-Canadian Centre of Manitoba, located south of Sir William Stephenson Library, to explore possibilities for funding, if they are interested in the median cut concept.

b. Board appointments to Library Advisory Committees

All Board nominees have been appointed to LACs.

c. LAC Vacancies

A former City Centre LAC member has reapplied to fill the remaining vacancy. It is anticipated that the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan LAC vacancy will be filled soon. The East Kildonan-Transcona LAC has one remaining vacancy; a public service announcement will be sent to The Herald, the local community paper.

d. Orientation

Ms. Burgess gave an update on the agenda and anticipated attendance at the April 16 orientation.

6. Reports

a. Chair

J. St. Hill will be the **Board's delegate to the Canadian Library Association conference** in Halifax, May 25 – 28. Ms. Burgess provided a letter authorizing Ms. St. Hill to vote on behalf of the Board at the annual meetings of CLA and the Canadian Library Trustees' Association. Councillor Browaty will be in Halifax for another conference, and has scheduled time to attend the CLA conference.

On March 18, Ms. Burgess and D. Chung attended **an event to celebrate Oshki Annishinabe Nigaaniwak ("Young Aboriginal People Leading")**, at Millennium Library. As described in the City's media release, "the event recognized the achievements and successes of Aboriginal youth and the City's partners in the delivery of employment, literacy and recreational opportunities which will have positive impacts on the lives of Aboriginal youth." The event was inspiring and encouraging, and included comments by Mayor Katz, Aboriginal entertainment and a delicious feast provided by a local Aboriginal firm, Wessinnin Catering Services.

The Library's Human Library event, which received excellent media coverage, was very successful, Ms. Burgess said. The 24 human "books" were diverse. The event was a partnership between Winnipeg Public Library and the Province. There may be a way that the Library Board and LACs could help for next year's event.

b. Treasurer

Treasurer A. Hoelt distributed copies of his report, and explained his approach to the format and content. In response to a request, he will include account balance sheets for the next Board meeting.

Members discussed possible budget adjustments, one of which would be to accommodate strategic planning initiatives. The budget can be amended at any point, Mr. Hoelt said.

c. Executive Committee

Advocacy

Ms. Burgess expressed satisfaction that the Board's operating grant request was contained in the City's draft operating budget estimates for 2011. On March 11 she thanked the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services (PCS) for the grant. She also asked for a \$75,000 increase to the Library's 2011 materials budget; last year the Library's materials budget was increased by \$80,000. Councillor Eadie moved, and PCS accepted, the recommendation that a \$25,000 permanent increase be added to the 2011 materials budget.

This motion was forwarded to Executive Policy Committee; at the EPC special meeting on March 14, Ms. Burgess spoke in support of the motion. Former Library Board member Councillor Smith also appeared as a delegate on funding for library materials. Councillors asked questions about e-books and the Mayor asked about Provincial support. Councillors were very positive and attentive; they appreciate the value of Library services.

At EPC, Ms. Burgess also spoke in support of the hybrid model for an hours' increase at Millennium Library.

Mr. Walker provided information to Board members about other portions of the City budget with Library implications. In addition to the \$25,000 increase that was approved for materials, \$60,000 was included for Wi-Fi to provide "free" service to more Wi-Fi customers. For additional service hours at Millennium Library, \$38,000 was added for 2011 and \$108,000 was identified for 2012.

d. Succession Planning

Ms. St. Hill said that the committee will be meeting after the Library Board meeting.

e. Community Outreach

J. Mabee reported. The Language and Literacy grants selection committee comprises Assiniboia LAC Chair L. Van Dongen, reading clinician C. Hryniuk-Adamov, the Library's Administrative Coordinator of Youth Services Karin Borland, and Ms. Mabee.

The deadline for applications was March 25. The selection committee will meet on April 19.

The 2009 Montgomery staff grant winner, S. Walker, will be a guest at the next meeting of the Community Outreach Committee on April 28. At future meetings, members will review the costs and effectiveness of the Language and Literacy grants program, and will revamp the Speakers' Bureau concept.

For the July-August issue of @ the Library, the deadline for which is June 1, the Committee expects to highlight the 2011 Language and Literacy grant winners. And the web listing of Board members' quotes has been updated.

f. Manager of Library Services

Mr. Walker distributed copies of the 2009 comparative statistics prepared by CULC -- the Canadian Urban Libraries Council, which is a national body comprising large urban public libraries serving populations of 50,000 and up. (The 2010 data will be available in the summer of 2011.) In 2009 the rankings are listed from lowest to highest; Mr. Walker therefore wrote Winnipeg's rank on most data lists. It is best to compare Winnipeg with like-sized cities, such as Edmonton.

g. Board reps to LACs

City Centre LAC met on March 10 at West End Branch. Branch Head Joey Olafsson outlined branch activities and noted that circulation figures have increased significantly. The WELL (West End Library Literacy) program is running at capacity. A four-week money management training program was held in February; SEED Winnipeg provided the training. A program called See Spot Read will be offered from April to June.

Ms. Mabee presented the Board report to LAC members. Dr. Singh indicated that there might be a strategic plan for LACs. There was much discussion around this idea with suggestions for requests of funding from various organizations.

LAC members asked how the Winnipeg Library Foundation raises its money: what are its funding sources and how do they get grants.

The LAC requested that the Library Board nominate the WELL program for the Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Literacy, the deadline for which is March 23, 2011. Ms. Burgess responded that the Board will consider the nomination next year, and will ask for the LAC's assistance.

The next two meetings of City Centre LAC will be at 5:00 p.m. on June 2, at Fort Garry Library and on September 8 at Cornish Library.

Ms. Burgess may arrange to meet with LAC Chairpersons later this year.

Riel LAC event

Ms. St. Hill said that the LAC participated in a Spring Break event at St. Boniface Library on April 2, at which entertainer Mago the Magician was excellent. The LAC also promoted what the LAC is and does. (Mr. Walker added that the Spring Break programs are funded by the Friends of Winnipeg Public Library.) The LAC provided books for a draw (two French recipe

books and an English book on recipes from around the world) and provided refreshments. A Board member suggested that book plates for the draw prizes would be another good way to promote the LAC.

Members particularly noted the multicultural diversity of patrons. The LAC would like to get a French translation of the LAC brochure. After one final review, it will be sent to the City's translation staff at the Board's cost.

The next Riel LAC meeting will be on May 9. Mr. Walker will speak about the process to develop the new facility for the amalgamation of St. Vital and Windsor Park Libraries.

Mr. Walker asked Board members who see good entertainers to let him know. Mr. Surgenor said that the Manitoba Arts Network, a provincial network of community arts organizations, maintains such lists.

h. Books2Eat

Ms. St. Hill, who is on the planning committee for the April 9 event, provided an update and encouraged Board members to attend. A call for volunteers has been sent to Board and LAC members. The celebrity judges are Winnipeg Free Press columnist Alison Gillmor, Associate Publisher of Turnstone Press Jamis Paulson, and Belinda Bigold of High Tea Bakery. Ms. St. Hill will speak at 3:15 p.m. and contest winners will be announced at 3:30 p.m., followed by feasting on the culinary school entries. Ms. St. Hill thanked Readers' Services staff, especially Tannis Gretzinger, for their planning expertise. Ms. Burgess thanked Ms. St. Hill and the committee for all their work in implementing this program.

i. Manitoba Library Trustees' Association (MLTA)

D. MacEwan, the Board's MLTA rep., said that the association will be holding a strategic planning session on April 8. Punch Jackson, former Executive Director of Public Library Services at Alberta Municipal Affairs, will facilitate the process.

Ms. Burgess, along with Dr. MacEwan, Mr. Walker and Mr. Surgenor, attended MLTA's annual general meeting on March 19 in Portage la Prairie. Ms. Burgess introduced former WPLB Chair and current Library Foundation Co-chair Sandy Hyman, one of the two winners of the MLTA Trustee of Distinction awards.

Ms. Burgess, who was elected Vice-Chair, was surprised at MLTA's low annual income of \$4,285. Included in that amount is a Provincial grant of \$1,200, which facilitates teleconference meetings. Dr. MacEwan is continuing as Member-at-Large, and City Centre LAC member Jane Fudge is continuing as Secretary-Treasurer. Mr. Walker credited Dr. MacEwan with building a positive relationship with MLTA.

j. Winnipeg Library Foundation

Ms. Burgess, Dr. MacEwan, and B. Zuk represented the Library Board at the Library Foundation's annual meeting on March 8 at Millennium Library. (As Chair of the Library Board, Ms. Burgess has a non-voting position on the WLF Board.) Several members of the Foundation's Board were present. Ms. Burgess expressed concern that the Library Board's grant to WLF does not show as a separate line on the 2009 audited financial statements, approved at the meeting; she was assured that this would be rectified in the 2010 audit, to be conducted this summer by BDO Dunwoody. Ms. Burgess and Ms. St. Hill will meet with WLF Co-chairs S. Hyman and P. Mitchell on April 5 to resolve some WPLB concerns. The Library Board grant covers the Foundation's operating costs, which includes the part-time Executive Director, so that all funds raised will go directly to projects.

One of the Foundation's current goals is to recruit more Board members. Most members who were involved in the Millennium Library project have moved on.

k. Public Library Services

Mr. Surgenor spoke about the impact of the upcoming federal election on Bills that were moving through the House. The Library Book Rate Bill, which had unanimous support, had been forwarded to the Senate for approval, but died on the floor. The controversial Copyright legislation also died.

And the status of the Initiative for Equitable Library Access (IELA) is unclear as a result of the election call. (For Board members' information, a February 2009 update is posted at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/iela/005002-910-e.html>.) Manitoba has submitted a major task force report on library accessibility.

On April 29, "Assistive Technologies in Libraries and Education: An Awareness Conference" will be held at the University of Manitoba. The conference is sponsored by:

- The Manitoba Library Consortium Inc.,
- Public Library Services, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism
- Manitoba Education
- Disabilities Issues Office, Manitoba Labour and Immigration
- University of Manitoba Libraries.

Mr. Surgenor said that one in 10 Canadians has a print disability. It is a complex subject; each of these library patrons has different and individual needs.

l. Strategic Planning

Dr. Singh, as the Board Executive's Member-at-Large, has the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of actions identified in the Board's 2011 – 2014 strategic plan. The Speakers' Bureau will be referred to the Community Outreach Committee. Strategic planning for LACs is in the planning stage. At the April 16 orientation, Ms. St. Hill and Dr. Singh will present information on the plan to Board members. Ms. W. Phaneuf, who facilitated the November 20, 2010 planning session, has submitted a draft version of the plan for public release. Executive Committee will discuss it at the next meeting.

7. New Business

a. Date of next Board meeting

Due to the election on May 2, Board members agreed to change the next meeting to Tuesday, May 3.

b. Friends' Books & Brunch, May 15

Ms. Burgess encouraged Board members to consider attending Books & Brunch, put on by the Friends of Winnipeg Public Library at The Gates on Roblin on Sunday, May 15. Featured speakers are author and historian Allan Levine, and broadcaster/teacher/columnist/pastor Karen Toole. Activities include prizes and a Rainbow Auction. Tickets (\$50, tax receipt provided for part) are available at the Best of Friends Gift Shop (947-0110) in the Millennium Library, or e-mail: info@friendswpl.

8. Other Business

No other business was raised.

9. Date and Location of Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 3 at 5:00 p.m.

Location: Cornish Library

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m. on a motion by A. Hoefft.