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Coming up at 6 pm, this month's Library Board meeting.



**MEETING PREVIEW: Guelph Public Library Board for April 24, 2023**

Every month the Guelph Public Library Board of Directors meets to talk about the latest issues facing all the various branches and programs in the library system. From covering a very diverse and a...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2023/04/21/meeting-preview-guelph-public-library-board-for-ap...>

The meeting has been called to order.

Approval of the agenda, but with an addition: A closed session at the end of the meeting, is unanimous.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interests? None.

Consent agenda. One member asks for the CEO report to be open for a question.

<b>5</b>	<b>Consent Agenda (15 min) – Board Review</b>	<b>6:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Motion</b>
5.1	Adoption of March 2023 Minutes		
5.2	Correspondence		
5.3	CEO's Report	S. Kraft	
5.4	Service Utilization Scorecard Report	D. Atkins	
5.5	Service Capacity Scorecard Report	D. Atkins	
5.6	Operating Variance Report	D. Atkins	

Member Rishworth asks CEO Kraft about library plans intersecting with the City's cultural plans. Kraft says that he was talking to a local artists about doing something in the new library that honours local children's authors.

What about external art, is that part of the larger public art in the new district? Kraft says yes, and those discussions are on hold until the bigger plans and starts get sorted out.

Consent agenda approved.

First presentation, the HR Review with Carolyn Elston-Ryder from HR.

- 1) Despite issues, GPL attracts and retains good candidates
- 2) Been focused on survived COVID thru training and now they're looking to more post(ish) pandemic.
- 3) Also looking to formalise best practices before staff bump in new library.

There's also a new engagement committee with staff members across the branches. Trying not to be "main focused" and looks at the unique needs of the different branches.

New union contract, so that's good news.

They're also rolling out new tech and processes like the new headsets you might see staff members where in the main library.

They've also introduced a new payroll system.

Question: Is there a lot of transfer between branches? Elston-Ryder says some but not as much as they're used to be. People usually move branches to be closer to home or to work different hours. All open positions are posted internally.

2023 projects? Revitalising job descriptions (like removing "words per minute" typing benchmarks), looking to having a staff development day, and future proofing workforce (with changing tech and community).

Motion to receive the annual report passed unanimously.

Next, Library as a Safe Place Report. Elston-Ryder presents this one too and she says there's been a spike in incidents. The biggest was 2 individuals they were working with to help understand when they were allowed to come back to the library.

If someone is barred from the property, they can't come back for a set amount of time. Elston-Ryder says that there's issues when that person comes back near the end of the period because they're confused about the day.

Elston-Ryder says management and health & safety track the incidents and see if there are any trends. Those trends then inform staff about potential gaps in training.

Member Ly asks if there's any room for training with a trauma-based perspective. Elston-Ryder says that they're developing such a program with an external partner now.

Motion to accept the report passes unanimously.

Next, New Central Library: Milestones Update. Rupinder Chatha, Project Manager, presents.

Chatha says that the deadline for bids on the new main library is this week, and then it will take a couple of weeks to go through them. In terms of those bids Chatha says "So far so good."

Groundbreaking? Could be May, or more likely June. Kraft says that current board members will be invited, and so will some past members. It's going to be a small "but powerful" group of invitees.

Motion to receive the report passes unanimously.

Next, Friends of the Library Report from Ly, who says that the Friends are coming through with \$1 million pledge for the new library. He also there's a new board coming in. Member Lepage notes that the group has become more cohesive and robust.

Ly adds that there will be a big book sale coming later this year, but in late September (?). The sale will be at the same location as last year on Huron Street. Kraft says the Library gets on very well with Friends, and thanks them for being strong partners.

Next, OLS Board Assembly Report. Chair Ellery was there interacting acting with other libraries that cover communities of similar size to Guelph. There was a workshop about community safety, and a presentation about equity of access at libraries.

They also announced a "Valuing Public Libraries" toolkit, which is all about attaching a monetary value to the services that libraries offer to a community.

Under new business, the date of that June meeting that was a bugaboo on everyone's schedule. The board will be getting preliminary budget info that day but key staff are on vacation in the fourth Monday. So the meeting will be Monday June 19.

New business from Cllr Klassen. She was at the DGBA meeting and there was talk about the perception that there's less stuff going on DT in the summer. There was discussion about giving street space to different groups, and she thought about the library!

Kraft notes that there's a lot of good programming coming up, and they have partnered with DGBA in the past. Meg Forestell-Page, Supervisor of Community Engagement, says that this is a good time to look at the options.

Board retreat? Ellery says that the exec have talked about that, and were thinking about community partnerships and doing a session about different orgs and agencies.

Now the board will move in-camera about personal matters around an identifiable individual.

Motion to go in-camera approved. I'll keep the line open to see if anything comes up.

Okay, the board is back in open session!

The discussion was around board vacancies, and Ellery says that they'll pick it up again in May.

This library board meeting is over.

I dedicate this gif to [@Ward2Rodrigo](#). (If you were at the meeting, you know why.)



[@threadreaderapp](#), unroll please

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