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Coming up at 6 pm, it's the monthly Guelph Public Library Board meeting.



MEETING PREVIEW: Guelph Public Library Board for May 29, 2023

It's the last committee meeting of the month, the Guelph Public Library Board of Directors. It looks to be a fairly light meeting in terms of agenda items, but to borrow a popular phrase that...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2023/05/23/meeting-preview-guelph-public-library-board-for-m...>

Chair Ellery calls the meeting to order.

First the agenda, there's going to be something under new business from Member Ly.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interests? None.

Consent agenda for this meeting. Ellery asks Daniel Atkins to go over one of the scorecards to make sure that the Board is reading them right.

5	Consent Agenda (15 min) – Board Review	6:15 p.m. Motion
5.1	Adoption of April 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

Atkins says that the scorecards were designed by a now defunct board committee to give the board a high level overviews. Green means GPL is on target and meeting previous year's numbers, yellow is lower than expected, and red is "real outlier".

The intent is to get board to ask questions about red items. The scorecard themselves generally look at library uses of various services. For instance ebook use is up nearly 8% over last year. Overall tech use has dipped b/c more ppl are coming back to library in-person.

Atkins says that one of the things these method flag was an explosion in programming, and they're seeing those high attendance levels again.

Atkins notes that red doesn't mean bad. For instance, the increase in program attendance is red because they don't presently have the space or staff to accommodate the demand. There also a red with digital collection, ebook still 3x the cost of IRL books.

Motion to approved the consent agenda passes.

First report, New Central Library: Milestones Update with project manager Rupinder Chatha.

Chatha says that there's a lot going on around the site, City crews will be going work on the site till the fall. He also says that there should be "good news" about the ground breaking "soon".

Motion to receive the report passes.

Next, Programming Annual Report with Supervisor of Community Engagement Meg Forestell-Page

The theme for 2022 was "Literacy". It came about after talking to the two local school boards who noted that some students seemed to have lost a step because of the pandemic. The emphasis was put on the six early literacy skills.

Bouncing Babies and Shake Rattle Read were two established programs that were expanded for demand. Born to Read also continued to be popular, and the kindergarten prep fills up as soon as course enrolment is posted.

Virtual programming was a necessity in the pandemic, but its still a component now, especially in adult programs. The library has saw fewer cancellations because if people can't show up in-person they can always go virtual.

Hybrid programming has also come in handy on snow days.

Staffing is an issues. Programming has two full-time staff members and two part-time across all six library locations. Forestell-Page notes that they have capacity issues for some programs, and this is where community partnerships come in.

Accomplishments: almost 79% increase in programs offered, 108.5% increase in participation, partnerships with EarlyON and GW Learning w/Disabilities, Tours and Class visits increase, New Horizons grant for seniors' knitting program, new teen programs.

CEO Kraft notes that there will be more space in the new building for programming and there's definite demand for that space.

Motion to accept the annual programming report for information passes.

Next, Executive Committee Update with Ellery.

Ellery reports the exec discussed cutting some of the standing committees for more of an ad hoc model. One will be about updating job descriptions, and though the CEO j.d. has been reviewed but there's an opportunity to improve the performance review process.

Also, succession planning needs to be contemplated, especially since the board just marked Kraft's 40th anniversary at GPL. Vice-Chair Williamson will lead this and identify where the gaps are.

Another ad hoc committee will look at planning the board retreat, the one that will look at the needs of community partners and how to answer those, plus learning to be better advocates for the library.

Ellery also talks about building relationships with members of council, as well as the MP and MPP. They've been thinking about holding a meet and greet with the board and the elected reps.

Report from Friends of the GPL. Ly, who is the board liaison, reports that they elected new officers for the group. Sale this is year is Sept 20-24. Got speakers series coming too.

Ellery asks if Ly ever shares information about Board meeting events at the Friends meeting. Ly says that he does not, but Ellery suggestions that it might not be a bad idea to report back to them too.

The board is now going to move into closed session on two matters.

Recommendation:

That the Guelph Public Library Board now hold a meeting that is closed to the public pursuant to:

The Public Libraries Act, Section 16.1(4) A meeting or part of a meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered is,

- (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual;
- (d) labour relations or employee negotiations;

Board has moved in closed session. Looks like they're leaving the feed open for when they return so will provide an update when that happens.



Okay, the board's coming back into open session!

Ellery reports that they looked at the HR scorecard, and discuss a vacancy on the library board.

Next meeting is June 19, which is the last one before summer vacation!

Meeting adjourned!



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