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Coming up in a few minutes, it's this month's Guelph Public Library Board of Directors meeting. Here's what's on the agenda:



MEETING PREVIEW: Guelph Public Library Board for February 26, 2024

As usual, we get to the end of the month and the regularly scheduled meeting of the Guelph Public Library Board of Directors. This month is a kind of special occasion, a sad occasion, because this ...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2024/02/21/meeting-preview-guelph-public-library-board-for-fe...>

Chair Williamson has called the meeting to order.

First, the meeting starts with a special presentation to Steve Kraft, the outgoing CEO of the Library who's retiring this week after 41 years with the Guelph Library.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interests? None.

Consent Agenda:

5	Consent Agenda (15 min) – Board Review	6:15 p.m.	Motion
5.1	Adoption of January 2024 Minutes		
5.2	Correspondence		
5.3	CEO's Report	S. Kraft	
5.4	Service Utilization Scorecard	D. Atkins	
5.5	Service Capacity Scorecard	D. Atkins	
5.6	Operating Variance	D. Atkins	
5.7	New Central Library - Milestones Update	R. Chatha	
5.8	Strategic Planning Committee Update	D. Atkins	
5.9	2023 Guelph Public Library Annual Review Report	S. Kraft/ D. Atkins	

Someone asks to have the 2023 Annual Report removed for further discussion. Someone else asks to pull the Service Capacity Scorecard. The rest of the consent agenda is approved.

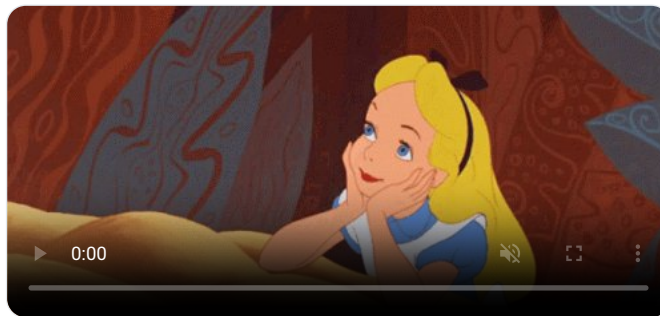
The board is now moving into closed session for the following three (!) reasons:

- (c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the board;
- (d) labour relations or employee negotiations;
- (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;

The meeting is still in-camera, although it took them some time to figure out how to leave the virtual public meeting and go in-camera so they might be stuck. We'll see...



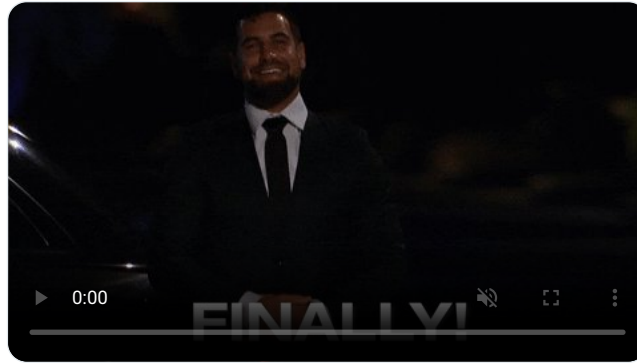
Still waiting...



Starting to think they forgot there was a whole other part of the meeting that was supposed to happen tonight....



And we're back...



Williamson asks for a motion to extend the meeting beyond the regular meeting time and it's passed. Now the board is going back in-camera to consider two additional items.

I guess we'll be back.

Okay, so we're finally out of closed session. Williamson said that they heard two items on HR matters and received information, and gave direction to staff on a third item that will be followed up on at future meetings.

Williamson calls for a brief break. Back at 8:23!

We're back again. The consultants had to go to another meeting so the presentation of the communications plan has to be deferred. Member Ellery puts a motion on the floor to defer items 7.1 and 7.2 till March and it's approved.

Back to items pulled from consent. 5.5: Service Capacity Scorecard. Member Rishworth asks about how the programs and digital collections are showing red, and asks if there's ever a worry about clients getting fed about lack of available space?

Deputy CEO Atkins says that is a concern, and the problem won't be fixed till they have more meeting space. Staffing issues will be addressed this year with a full-time programmer later this year.

AS for Rishworth question about digital collection, Atkins notes that the budget isn't going up every year as much as it's keeping up with the cost of inflation. There's still a lot of demand for print materials, and the library's still growing its digital collection.

Question about the operating variance, why the overbudget for January for expenses? Atkins says that they space out the purchases and divide it by 12, but a lot of stuff is received in January. It will balance out over the year.

Next, Central Library Update. Chatha's had to hear because he's on the other side of the room from the mic, but I think he did mention that the crane is going to be installed in March.

Klassen asks about putting a banner on the crane that says something like "new library coming soon." Kraft says that he will look into it.

Last item from the consent agenda, 2023 Guelph Public Library Annual Review Report. Ellery asks about visits at the Scottsdale branch. Atkins says Scottsdale is always busy, it's always busy. Caron notes the area has the highest percentage of single parent households.

Goller asks about the difference between visit and visitor, primarily how they get to 1.99 million. Atkins says that's not 1.99 million people, it's every unique visit to every branch.

Member Sadagoban asks about staff procedure about handling times when kids come in w/o parents. Williamson says he doesn't want to get into library operations. Michelle Campbell, Mgr of Public Service, says it's part of the job but if there's an incident w/ a child its reported.

Last item, 2024 Staff Strategic Workplan Report. Kraft says it's not complicated, but the staff will short one "significant" staff member for a period of time, so that's purposeful.

5 goals with the work plan: digital equity, reevaluate and expand the library of things, establish relations with Conestoga, communication boards (methods to communicate with people with cognitive issues), and business continuity plan.

Also: EDI audit, review of physical and digital catalog, French programming, newcomer engagement strategy, co-ordinate with clerks office for City archives (plan coming soon), facilities master plan, fundraising, reciprocal borrowing with neighbouring libraries...

..staff expansion, online merchandise store, a better library app for your phone, a retention plan for materials, terms of reference in relationship with the City of Guelph, and IT lifecycle replacement.

Questions? Ellery asks about stuff that's carrying over, but not starting till Q3/Q4, are they not a priority? Kraft says no, it's just an acknowledgement that they can't do everything at once.

Rishworth notes the cyber attack on the Toronto PL in October, is there a chance for this board to know about GPL's risk? Kraft says that staff will speak to that in March so that board knows that they're doing everything possible on cyber security.

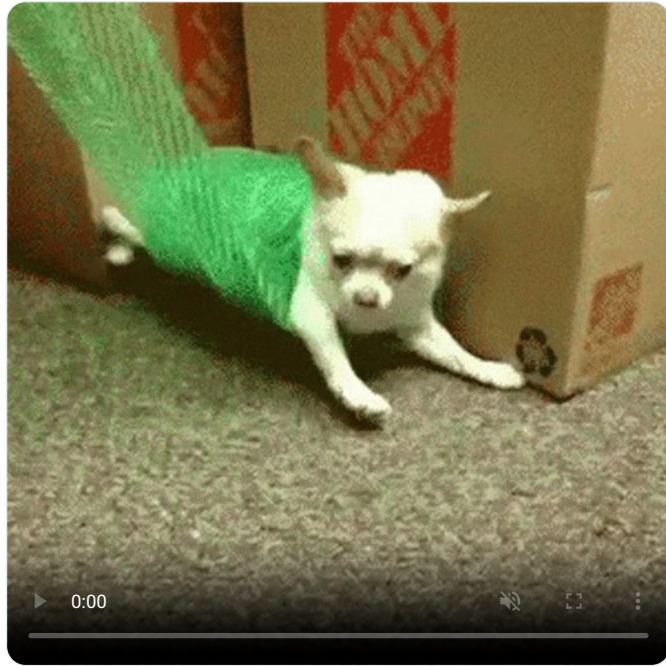
Motion to receive the report passes unanimously.

Unfinished business: 2024 Board Committees. Ellery reports that they've all organised themselves into the new committees, including Williamson, Caron and Ellery who will all be leading CEO recruitment effort.

To wrap up Williamson notes that if you look at the Annual Report it shows that the library does a helluva lot of work, and belies the idea that no one uses libraries anymore. He also notes again that this is Kraft's last meeting.

Williamson congratulates Kraft on his retirement and thanks him for his year's of service to the Guelph Public Library.

And that's a wrap for this meeting!



@threadreaderapp unroll please!

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