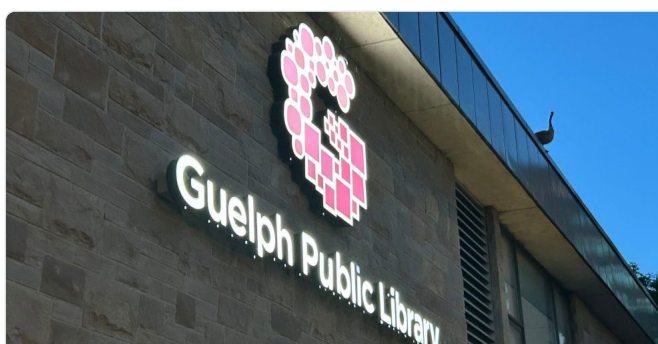




Adam A. Donaldson @adamadonaldson

Jun 24, 2024 · 51 tweets · [adamadonaldson/status/1805358663890018434](https://twitter.com/adamadonaldson/status/1805358663890018434)

Coming up at 6 pm, it's this month's Guelph Public Library board meeting. This is what's coming up this evening:



MEETING PREVIEW: Guelph Public Library Board for June 24, 2024

In their last meeting before summer vacation, the Guelph Public Library Board is going to have a lot of ground to cover. There will be follow up about previous reports on the work needed to update ...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2024/06/19/meeting-preview-guelph-public-library-board-for-ju...>

Chair Williamson has called the meeting to order.

Williamson asks to start with a motion to go past 8 pm due to the packed agenda. That's passed.

Cllr Klassen's presentation about the Calgary Library visit is pulled from the agenda, she's sick tonight.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interests? Nope.

Number of the month: The price of rent. Williamson notes that one of the things that the Library is doing is making tablets available to people to attend virtual LBT hearings. It's another way that the GPL is trying to level the field.

The consent agenda. Goller has already asked to pull 6.3, 6.8, and 6.11. All of the items except those ones are received.

6.1 Adoption of May 2024 Minutes	
6.2 Correspondence	
6.3 Acting CEO's Report	D. Atkins
6.4 Service Utilization Scorecard	D. Atkins
6.5 Service Capacity Scorecard	D. Atkins
6.6 Operating Variance	D. Atkins
6.7 Human Resources Scorecard	C. Elston-Ryder
6.8 New Central Library Update	D. Atkins
6.9 2024 Staff Strategic Workplan Mid-Year Report	D. Atkins
6.10 2024 Board Strategic Workplan Mid-Year Report	D. Williamson
6.11 Facilities Master Plan – Branch Reports	Grinham Architects

We're now going into closed session under labour relations or employee negotiations. We'll be back after an undetermined amount of time...



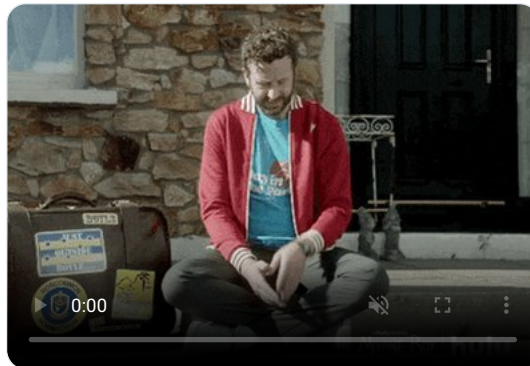
Yup, the board meeting is still in...



It's about that time being outside the closed session...



We're now coming to the end of the first hour of this closed session of the GPL Board...



Status:



Okay. Back in the meeting room and waiting for the open session to begin again.

Williamson moves up the discussion items before tacking the things pulled from the consent agenda. A presentation on the CEO search was presented in closed and follow-up direction was given.

Ben Balfour from Overlap & Associates will be presenting the next item, 2025-2029 Strategic Plan Overview. The same company worked with Library in 2018 on the strategic plan, and Balfour notes the big opportunity.

What are they going to build? There will be a half day with the board to talk about mission, vision and values. Those are the touchstones that live beyond any one Strat plan, and ensure any decisions made are in line with that.

Overlap & Associates will be doing a lot of engagement b/c that informs the strategy, but it will be up to the board to interpret that. Current, trend analysis is underway with library staff, and they did some engagement at the GDMF. July will be trends and insights w/ Oct report

Balfour says that they will stress test the plan with the board before finalizing it, so they won't just be doing it and then sending it out again without assurances that it's setting the GPL on the right course.

He adds that they really went to get out into the community and talk to people who are not necessarily library users. How can the library work for those people?

Cllr Caron asks about engaging children under 12? Balfour says that the postcards to the future that they're using will be kid friendly, you can write on it or you can draw on it too, which should make it appealing to the kids.

Member Ly asks about multilingual feedback. Balfour says they can do that, but they haven't scoped that work yet.

Motion to receive the report approved.

Back to the consent agenda, and the Acting CEO's Report. Goller thanks Atkins for allowing contraceptives in the library bathrooms in partnership with Public Health. And important move in equity.

Member Cowan asks about the outreach nurse and feedback from staff. Atkins says he's got none, which is a win.

Also, Library is in planning stages for a merch store: Stickers, t-shirts, hoodies, posters and more. They're talking to other libraries now to find out how they do it, and hope to launch later this year.

New Central Library Update: Gollers thanks Atkins for the dashboard, makes it easy to understand progress, and asks about achieving zero carbon certification. Atkins says there's no strategy at moment to be carbon neutral thru whole system since many branches rent.

Last consent item: Facilities Master Plan – Branch Reports. Goller asks about looking at cost of rent vs own, is this the process for that? Atkins says they're looking at Library Master Plan, and part of that will be growth of branch system. Looking at best time to launch.

What does that mean? They're going to wait till after the new main library is open because that's going to change the pattern of use and they will want to measure those impacts.

Goller asks about timeline for accessibility audits. Atkins says that's 2025.

Does that mean any major renos will wait? Yes, they can proceed with painting and carpet, but a bathroom reno might wait till post-audit.

Goller: What about carbon analysis of the renos, and cost of replacement? Atkins says the library has never gotten rid of anything b/c it's "out of style", they use something till end of life. For proof, go to Scottsdale and Bullfrog branches.

Member Ortiz Carlsson asks about prioritising the recommendations. Atkins says that's staff and the branch supervisor.

All the three reports received unanimously.

Next, Annual Programming Review with Meg Forestell, Supervisor of Community Engagement.

Forestell says that there's a very small programming team, 2 FT and 2 PT, and they're running 100+ programs a month btw all the branches. They've now building in plans for assistance from other depts, including tours and outreach events.

Strategic partnerships have been developed with groups that offer new/additional expertise, one example is the baby yoga program they're now doing. There are monthly meetings with staff, but the big ones are after major seasons like Xmas, Summer and March breaks.

Most registration has been removed from summer programming though there are some exceptions with programs like arts & crafts. They're still focusing on early literacy since this sets up kids for future success.

One initiative is the Born to Read program, every kid born in Guelph gets a book and a knitted item. 500 of these bags given to Guelph Hospital in 2023, and have set up connections to the midwifery team.

1,000 Books Before Grade 1 program. There were 46 last year, and 80 this year. 3,088 kids took part in the summer reading club last year too. Children can lose up to 3 months grade level equivalency in the summer, and low income students are disproportionately affected.

This year's program is "Reach for the Stars" and every kid will get a NASA badge if they're able to keep up with the 20 minutes of reading per day. Also committed to connecting to community outside of library, like recent story time at Michael House.

1,530 students been given tours in the first 6 months of this year. New and renewed partnerships were sewed including bereavement programming with Nightingale. As many as 20 people were taking part in each session.

New partnership is cooking with the Grove hub. There were about 100 programs every month, which had about 20+ people on average at each event.

Forestell says that 3rd full-time programmer will be added in July, and they will be adaptable; the programming team was still going full tilt during the pandemic and pivoted to virtual. Got an idea for a program? They'll hear you out.

Motion to receive the report approved.

Next item, 2023 Financial Year-End Review. Atkins will present this one. The financials have been reviewed by KPMG and are in-line with public accounting standards.

There's a growing enthusiasm for learning and literacy, and the GPL is a big part of that, Atkins says. The majority of operating funding goes to compensation for staff, and there was a negative variance of \$295k. Revenue hasn't returned to pre-pandemic levels yet (70k).

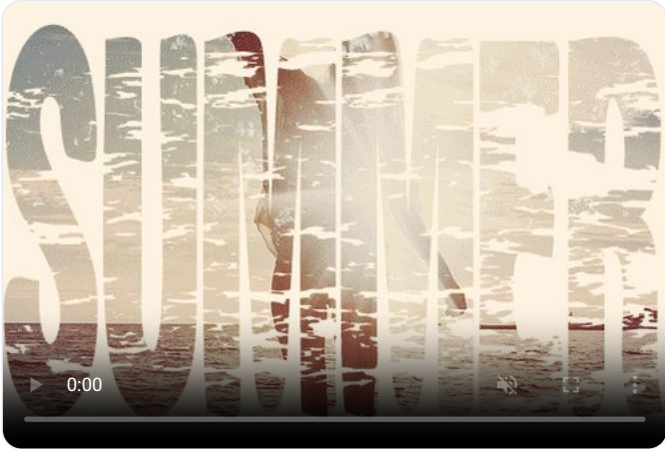
\$191k in overage for budgeting due to a variety of reasons including short term disability and mat leave. There was also a slight overage in consultation costs. Capital investments incl. height adjustable self check out for kids, and other new tech, & elevator upgrades at main.

GPL has 2 reserve funds, the contingency reserve was drawn down to cover the deficit. Over 1% of total budget is still there in the reserve so it's technically still in a health position despite '23 negative variance.

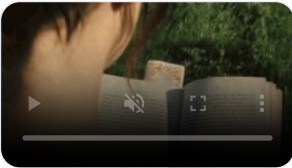
Motion to receive the report approved.

New Business? Williamson asks for two motions: Write a letter of thanks to Guelph Chamber of Commerce for awarding former CEO lifetime achievement, and a letter of congratulations to Guelph CAO Stewart for his retirement. Motions approved.

Williamson wraps up by wishing everyone a nice summer vacation!



That's a wrap for the meeting!



@threadreaderapp unroll please!

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