
EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Trustees Boardroom, Stanley A. Milner

ATTENDANCE:

Board: Shawna Vogel
Rebecca Bock-Freeman
Dr. Joseph Doucet
Mark Hoosein
Councillor Karen Principe
Rosalie Russnak
Xueming Zhao

Regrets: Mansur Bitar
Tina Faiz
Chad Schulz

Staff: Pilar Martinez, Chief Executive Officer
Corrina Chetley-Irwin, Executive Director, Employee Experience
Sharon Day, Executive Director, Customer Experience
Cody Tomanek, Chief Financial Officer
Vicky Varga, Executive Director, Collections, Marketing and Technology

Guest: Béné Garmier, Director, Marketing, Communications and Fund Development

Recording Secretary: Lisette Lalchan

1. CALL TO ORDER/CHAIR WELCOME, LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Board Chair, Shawna Vogel, called the meeting to order at 5:27 p.m. with a Land Acknowledgement. She noted that this month is National Indigenous History Month, an opportunity to celebrate Indigenous cultures, languages, and stories through storytelling, programming, and knowledge-sharing initiatives.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Shawna asked that item 8e, EPL Inclusion & Belonging Policy, B-2031 be taken out of consent and added into new business for discussion.

MOTION: That the Board accept the agenda as amended.
Moved by Dr. Joseph Doucet. Seconded by Rosalie Russnak.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest identified.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION: That the Board approve the May 13, 2025 meeting minutes.
Moved by Rebecca Bock-Freeman. Seconded by Mark Hoosein.

CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6. OPENER/WARM-UP

Trustees and EPL staff participated in a roundtable discussion where they shared the most recent book they read that moved them.

7. CONSENT ITEMS

7a) Appointments - Committees and Chairs, ALTA and Friends of EPL

7b) Chair's Report

7c) CEO's Report

7d) EPL 2024 Annual Report

7e) Temporary Planned Library Service Point Closures Policy – rescind as operational

MOTION: That the Board receive all consent items as information.
Moved by Dr. Joseph Doucet. Seconded by Rebecca Bock-Freeman.

CARRIED

8. NEW BUSINESS

8a) EPL Advocacy/Municipal Election Plan Update – Béné Garmier, Director, Marketing, Communications & Fund Development & Pilar Martinez, CEO

Béné Garmier presented the 2025 municipal election campaign plan, including goals, EPL's approach, engagement opportunities, and how Trustees can assist.

The Board discussed the Trustees' role in advocating for EPL during the campaign, sharing ideas and stakeholder engagement opportunities. Pilar will compile a list of questions for Trustees to ask candidates to align with EPL's key messaging. Trustees will review the relationship mapping document and identify opportunities to leverage EPL's advocacy efforts.

Béné Garmier left the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

8b) EPL Inclusion & Belonging Policy, B-2031

Corrina provided the Board with an overview of the approach to the updates in the policy. Executive considered language, organizational and legislative changes, currency, and relevance. She stated that the driver for the policy changes was EPL's newly adopted Inclusion and Belonging framework, which was shared with the Board at their March 2024 meeting.

MOTION: That the Board approve the EPL Inclusion & Belonging Policy, B-2031.
Moved by Xueming Zhao. Seconded by Dr. Joseph Doucet.

CARRIED

8c) Political Activity of Board Trustees during civic, regional, provincial and national elections

The board discussed the role of trustees during an election period, balancing personal political rights with board responsibilities. Key topics included trustees' political activities, such as displaying signs or hosting events, and their potential impact on public perception. Accountability to stakeholders, differences between passive and active campaigning, the importance of transparency, and when to notify the board chair of potential conflicts.

9. NEW INQUIRIES

10. IN CAMERA - WITH CEO

MOTION: That the Board move IN CAMERA.
Moved by Rosalie Russnak. Seconded by Rebecca Bock-Freeman.

CARRIED

The Board moved in camera Cody Tomanek, Sharon Day, Corrina Chetley-Irwin, Vicky Varga and Lisette Lalchan left the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Pilar Martinez left the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

11. IN CAMERA - BOARD ONLY

MOTION: That the Board move OUT OF CAMERA
Moved by Rebecca Bock-Freeman. Seconded Mark Hoosein.

CARRIED

The Board moved out of camera at 8:03 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT