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**EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD**

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Sprucewood Library

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**ATTENDANCE:**

**Board:** Shawna Vogel  
Rebecca Bock-Freeman  
Dr. Joseph Doucet  
Mark Hoosein  
Councillor Karen Principe  
Chad Schulz  
Xueming Zhao

**Regrets:** Tina Faiz  
Rosalie Russnak

**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 & Technology

**Guests:** Dustin Anderson and Nicolette Miller

**Recording Secretary:** Lisette Lalchan

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**1. CALL TO ORDER/CHAIR WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Shawna Vogel, EPL Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with a Land Acknowledgement.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Shawna identified a typo in the agenda – the 2027-2023 Strategic Planning Process – 2027-2030 & Discussion should have read 2027-2030 Strategic Planning Process – 2027-2030 & Discussion.

**MOTION:** That the Board accept the agenda as amended.  
Moved by Mark Hoosein. Seconded by Mansur Bitar.

**CARRIED**

**3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no conflicts of interest identified.

#### 4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** That the June 10 and August 28, 2025 meeting minutes be approved.  
Moved by Dr. Joseph Doucet. Seconded by Rebecca Bock-Freeman.

**CARRIED**

#### 5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### 6. **NEW BUSINESS**

##### 6a) 2027-2030 Strategic Planning Process – 2027-2030 & Discussion

Pilar introduced Dustin and Nicolette who will be supporting EPL in developing the next strategic plan and welcomed them to introduce the board to the planning process. Dustin then outlined the approach, role expectations for the board, and timelines for the planning process. Dustin led a discussion for the board to identify strategic questions and opportunities and risks for EPL leadership to consider. *Dustin Anderson and Nicolette Miller left the meeting at 6:03 p.m.*

##### 6b) Pilar's Perspectives: EPL's Next Chapter in a Shifting Landscape

As requested by Shawna, Pilar shared reflections as EPL embarks on its next strategic plan, outlining key societal shifts and opportunities to elevate the library's role in civil discourse, intellectual freedom, and reading. She emphasized the integration of AI—both operationally and as a public learning opportunity—while leveraging EPL's strong reputation to meet emerging community needs. A trustee commented on intellectual freedom, followed by a discussion on recent developments in Alberta.

##### 6c) 2025 Half Year Strategic & Business Plan Report

Pilar presented the Board with the 18-month update on the business plan. She shared updates on each of EPL's three goals, significant operational activities and identified actions that are at risk of being delayed. Trustees asked questions, and a trustee recommended that, due to the large amount of information, the board receive a one-page summary prepared by the CEO highlighting key points she thinks the Board should know.

#### 7. **CONSENT ITEMS**

- a) Finance & Audit Committee Report
  - i) Q2 Financial Results
  - ii) 2026 EPL Proposed Operating & Capital Budget
- b) Governance & Nomination Committee Report
  - iii) Skills Matrix Results Review
  - iv) Library Use Policy
  - v) Public Internet Access Policy

- c) Chair's Report
- d) CEO Report, KPIs & Fund Development Update
- e) Friends of EPL Report

**MOTION:** That all consent items be received as information and approved.  
Moved by Xueming Zhao. Seconded by Chad Schulz.

**CARRIED**

## **8. NEW INQUIRIES**

A trustee inquired about the fire at Calgary Public Library.

**MOTION:** That the Board move IN CAMERA.  
Moved by Xueming Zhao. Seconded by Chad Schulz.

**CARRIED**

*The meeting moved in camera at 6:59 p.m. and Corrina Chetley-Irwin, Sharon Day, Lisette Lalchan, Cody Tomanek and Vicky Varga left the meeting.*

## **9. IN CAMERA**

- a) Board Feedback & Discussion

*Pilar Martinez left the meeting at 7:06 p.m.*

**MOTION:** That the Board move OUT OF CAMERA.  
Moved by Mansur Bitar. Seconded by Mark Hoosein.

**CARRIED**

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.