

**EASTERN COUNTIES REGIONAL LIBRARY  
GENERAL BOARD MEETING: THURSDAY, January 19, 2023 via Zoom**

**PRESENT:**, Clair Rankin, Cllr. Claude Poirier, Cllr. Mary Desmond, Cllr. Blaine MacQuarrie, Cllr. Debbie King, Bill Greenlaw

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Laura Emery, Chief Librarian/Secretary to the Board; Patricia McCormick, Deputy Chief Librarian

**REGRETS:** Cllr. Courtney Mailman

**1. Welcome – Land Acknowledgement**

Clair Rankin called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Claude read the land acknowledgement in French

Bill Greenlaw, Executive Director, Communities, Sport and Recreation introduced himself. He has been appointed by the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage as a resource to the Board in 2023. He is here to observe and provide advise.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

**Motion 123: MacQuarrie/Desmond. Approved. That the agenda be approved with the addition of Library Reports.**

**2a Election of Officers**

The election of officers was moved up from **#7** on the agenda

The Acting Chair, Clair Rankin, relinquished the chair to Laura Emery for the election of the **Chair** position. He then returned to Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

The results of the election were as follows:

- a) Chair – Clair Rankin
- b) Vice-Chair – Deferred to next meeting
- c) Treasurer – Claude Poirier

8. Personnel committee - Cllr. Debbie King and Cllr. Claude Poirier volunteered to serve on the committee

### **3. Minutes of the December 8, 2022 meeting**

**Motion 124: MacQuarrie/King. Approved. That the minutes of the December 8, 2022 meeting be approved with the correction on the date**

### **4. Business arising**

**Motion 124: Desmond/King. Approved. That the Board give Laura the authority to negotiate with the province regarding funding to purchase a van**

### **5. Financial Report**

**Motion 125: MacQuarrie/Debbie. Accepted. That we accept the financial report to December 31, 2022.**

### **6. CEO report**

a) ECRL Review recommendations:

i. Changes in Financial practices required – Laura would like to change the budget approval date to the end of March. To achieve this, we need to create a different reporting system for our grants. Our grants are currently in our annual budget.

ii. Revision of vacant manager position – Laura would like the position to focus on community engagement and take a leading role in accessibility planning.

b) Chéticamp – A soft launch of the Chéticamp Library is planned for February 1<sup>st</sup>. Inverness County is going through a community engagement process regarding library service. A recent local news report indicated that there is local interest for a library in Whycomagh at the Waterfront Centre.

c) CORL (Council of Regional Librarians) Visioning sessions on the Funding Formula – CORL is hold sessions to discuss and work out the priorities for the next five-year funding formula.

i. Rescheduling February & March Board meetings – due to visioning of CORL. Laura will send out Doodle polls for new dates for February and March.

d) WiFi expansion project – we would like a new location for the WiFi expansion that was scheduled for Cheticamp. Laura will talk to Inverness County about the difficulties around installing the WiFi extender and see what can be arranged.

e) Shirley's Retirement – Laura asked for suggestions regarding a retirement gift. A book was suggested.

**Motion 126. Desmond/Poirier. Accepted. Motion to accept the CEO's report as presented**

## **7. Library Reports**

There was an article in Guysborough Journal regarding library closure in Sherbrooke. The closure was because of a staffing shortage. The branch is reopening with a new employee on January 25<sup>th</sup>, giving us two staff members in Sherbrooke. We have been mailing holds to patrons in the interim.

St. Peter's is hoping to go to tender by the end of February for their new community hub

**9. LBANS representative** – A volunteer is needed to replace Shirley McNamara on the LBANS. Tabled until the next meeting.

## **10. EDI**

a) Our Nova Scotia: Accessibility for All

b) Why is Accessible Design Good for Everyone?

Board members were asked to watch them individually.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for February 23 at 5:30 p.m.

Board members asked to think about the report and make suggestions before the next meeting.

**Motion 127. MacQuarrie/Desmond. Approved. That we give the Chair and CEO permission to write to the Minister requesting funding based on discussions regarding the Recommendation Report.**

## **12. Adjournment**

**Motion 128. MacQuarrie. That the meeting be adjourned at 7:30 p.m.**

Mary Desmond is resigning from the Library Board and Municipal Council for health reasons. The Board thanked Mary for her service and wished her all the best on her recovery.