



MINUTES REGULAR BOARD MEETING

GVPL Central Branch, 735 Broughton Street

Community Meeting Room & MS Teams

March 25, 2025

A hybrid meeting of the Greater Victoria Public Library Board was held on the above date. The following individuals were in attendance:

Board Members:

Trustee A. Appleton
Trustee K. Boehnert
Trustee D. Cavens (Vice-Chair)
Trustee S. Donaldson
Trustee D. Grove
Trustee R. Henderson
Trustee S. Khair (Chair)
Trustee S. Kim
Trustee S. Lansdowne
Trustee G. Lemon
Trustee R. McClure
Trustee M. Morley
Trustee G. Newton
Trustee T. Phelps Bondaroff
Trustee R. Ranjan
Trustee K. Roessingh
Trustee R. Stromberg
Trustee M. Wey
Trustee N. White

Staff:

M. Sawa, CEO/Board Secretary
M. Barnes, Assistant Director, Finance
J. Gingera, Director, Systems Integration, Resource Management and IT
D. Wood, Executive Director, Library Services
E. Russell, Recording Secretary
R. Baugniet President, CUPE 410

1. CALL TO ORDER

S. Khair called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

S. Khair provided the Indigenous Acknowledgement.

3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Request to remove the following from the Consent Agenda

4.3 Chair Report

4.4 CEO Report

These Items were moved to Item 5 Chair's Remarks.

Request to add BCLTA Response to Tariffs

This item was moved to New Business 8.2

Moved by Trustee Roessingh seconded by Trustee Lemon,

THAT items 4.1 & 4.2 be approved.

4.1 Approval of Agenda

4.2 Approval of Minutes – February 25, 2025

MOTION CARRIED

5. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair highlighted items from the Chair's report acknowledging the inaugural Planning and Policy committee meeting thanking Trustees White, Trustee Kim for accepting roles of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2025. The Budget presentations for the 2025 fiscal year conclude on March 31st with a presentation to Central Saanich Council.

M. Sawa shared with the board that the Nellie McClung Express branch will be opening on March 26, there will be an initial soft launch for the initial opening, as the branch has an smaller occupancy limit of 50 people in the branch, this is being managed by a people counter that displays the current number of people in the branch in real time. An update of the recruitment efforts underway for both frontline staff and the Director of People and Culture.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

6.1. Board Engagement Survey

Trustee Khair thanked trustees for their response to the board engagement survey. A review of the responses will be compiled and share with trustees at the next meeting.

6.2. Board Retreat

Trustee Khair confirmed that the Spring Board Retreat will be held on Saturday May 10, 2025. The location is being finalized and will be confirmed before the next meeting. A high-level overview of the goals for the retreat was discussed.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1. Planning and Policy Committee

N. White shared that at the inaugural meeting of the committee held on March _____ he was appointed chair and Trustee Kim was appointed Vice Chair. He addressed the work ahead for 2025 will need to be prioritized and working groups will be struck, with the initial working group to develop the 2025-2027 Strategic Framework into a Strategic Plan. There are also a number of board policies that need to be reviewed and prioritized.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Provincial Public Library Grant Report

M. Sawa provided background about the Provincial Public Library Grant that is attached to the agenda as item 8.1. This document provides a report to The Province as to how the funding that has been received is being used. The Province reviews and assesses how GVPL utilizes the grants that have been provided by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

8.2. Canadian Retaliatory Tariffs Consultation

M. Sawa shared with trustees, the Federal Finance Department is conducting a consultation on the proposed retaliatory tariffs. These tariffs if implemented could impact books, printed materials, audio books, newspapers, and journals. Association British Columbia Public Library Directors and BC Library Trustees Association are encouraging as many stakeholders as possible to provide feedback to the survey. The proposed retaliatory tariff of 25% could impact the purchasing of books and significantly impact GVPL's overall budget.

Moved by Trustee Cavens and seconded by Trustee Lemon

THAT the Board Chair send a letter to the Minister of Finance regarding the impact of the proposed retaliatory tariffs.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE:

April 22, 2025; 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Lemon, Seconded by Trustee White,

THAT the March 25, 2025 Regular Board Meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

Board Chair

Board Secretary