



MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
GVPL Central Branch, 735 Broughton Street
Community Meeting Room & MS Teams
October 28, 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 N. White
Trustee M. Wey

Staff:

M. Sawa, CEO/Board Secretary
M. Barnes, Assistant Director, Finance
D. Fergusson-Hirmer, Director, People & Culture
R. Hadziev, Acting Director, Special Projects
D. Joyce, Acting Director, Library Services
R. Rogers, Acting Assistant Director, Collections and Technical Services
A. Shojaei, Assistant Director, Facilities, Safety, Security and Resource Mgt
D. van der Linde, Acting Assistant Director, Service Design
E. Russell, Recording Secretary
C. Ottenbreit, Vice President, CUPE 410

1. CALL TO ORDER

S. Khair called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

S. Khair provided the Indigenous Acknowledgement.

3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed and introduced Rina Hadziev, Acting Director, Special Projects.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Trustee Cavens; Seconded by Trustee Lemon,

THAT items 4.1 & 4.2 be approved, items 4.3 to 4.5 be received for information.

4.1. Approval of Agenda

4.2. Approval of Minutes – September 16, 2025 Attachment 4.2

4.3. Chair Report

4.4. CEO Report

4.5. Correspondence

4.5.1. Email from Patron received September 13, 2025

4.5.2. Response to Patron email received September 13, 2025

MOTION CARRIED

5. CHAIR'S REMARKS

S. Khair provided an update on recent advocacy efforts to raise awareness of the need for increased provincial funding in BC public libraries.

at the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) conference in Victoria in September. A UBCM reception hosted by the Association of BC Public Library Directors at the $sx^w e\eta x^w e\eta t e\eta x^w$ James Bay Branch was well attended by GVPL Trustees and conference delegates, helping S. Khair also reported on the launch of the Digitization Lab at the Esquimalt Branch, which has seen strong early uptake by patrons.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1. Finance Committee Update

K. Roessingh reported on the October 14, 2025 Finance Committee meeting which included a final review of the 2026 budget and five-year Financial Plan.

6.1.1. Budget Fiscal 2026 and Five-Year Financial Plan

Assistant Director, Finance Melina Barnes provided an overview of the budget package received by the board for their consideration and approval.

Moved by Trustee Roessingh; seconded by Trustee Lemon

THAT the GVPL Board approve the Budget Fiscal 2026 and Five-Year Financial Plan 2026-2030

MOTION CARRIED.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. IslandLink Library Federation Update

M. Sawa reported that the IslandLink Library Federation Fall meeting was held on Oct 27. The primary focus was on strategic planning.

7.2. Staff Presentation- The Collection

R. Rogers, Acting Assistant Director, Collections and Technical Services, presented recent enhancements to the library's collection, including the replacement of obsolete AV formats, expansion of language collections, and the upcoming addition of board games. These additions are funded through the B.C.one-

time Libraries Enhancement Grant. The presentation also provided trustees with information regarding the significant cost disparity between physical and digital book purchases for libraries.

7.3. 2026 Board meeting Schedule

Moved by Trustee Cavens; seconded by Trustee Lemon

THAT the Board of Trustees approve the schedule for 2026 board meetings as circulated
MOTION CARRIED.

8. IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee Cavens; seconded by Trustee Lemon

THAT the Board of Trustees move in camera
MOTION CARRIED.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE:

November 25, 2025; 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Khair, Seconded by Trustee Lemon

THAT the October 28, 2025, Regular Board Meeting be adjourned.
MOTION CARRIED

Board Chair

Board Secretary