

REGULAR MEETING

January 16, 2008

The regular meeting of the London Public Library Board was held on the above date in the Friends of the London Public Library Board Room at 5:35 p.m. with the following present:

From the Board S. MacDonald G. Barber, J. Deslippe, N. Branscombe, J. Colwell, J. Lubell, J. Morgan, J. Tilley and D. Winninger;

Senior Management: A. Baker, A. Becker, S. Hubbard Krimmer, L. Sage;

Guests: F. Filice, G. Thompson, Old East Village Community Association;

Minutes taken by: J. White.

APOLOGIES – none

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST – none

L08/01 CHANGES TO AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Three items were added to the agenda:

Library programs could boost your 2008 resolutions, LFP, January 11, 2008
City of London Bylaws, Part 14 Delegations, Part 15 Communications, Part 16 Enquiries and 5(20) Anonymous Communications, etc.
Letter from Samuel Trosow regarding Applicability of Open Meeting legislation to LPL, January 15, 2008

It was MOVED by Councillor Branscombe and seconded by Ms. Lubell that the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

L08/02 DELEGATIONS

Old East Village Community Association

Mr. Filice offered feedback on the LPL 2008 Sustainability Business Plan and Budget Implications. He asked that the Library Board not reduce the hours of service at Carson Branch Library or at any of the other small branches.

Mr. Filice discussed his submission, A Review of London Public Library Sustainability Business Case and the options as outlined in his report. His presentation to the Library Board is appended to the minutes for the information of members.

Correspondence had been sent to Mr. Filice from Ms. Becker stating that the Library Board has fully endorsed a recommendation to City Council that does not include reducing hours at Carson Branch Library or any other small branches. A committee will be struck to include public members of the Carson community with library staff and the mandate of this committee will be to develop a feasible plan as to how to improve attendance and circulation and ensure that Carson Branch can be a sustainable branch for the future.

Ms. MacDonald thanked Mr. Filice for his presentation.

L08/03

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Trosow's letter re: Applicability of Open Meeting legislation to LPL dated January 15, 2008 will be appended to the December 12, 2007 minutes.

It was MOVED by Controller Barber and seconded by Councillor Winner that the minutes of December 12, 2007 (L07/59-L07/65.2) be approved as amended.

CARRIED

L08/04

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Election of Third Member of the Executive Committee

At the December 12, 2007 meeting of the Board, an election was held for the third member of the Executive Committee. Ms. Lubell and Mr. Morgan were both nominated for this position. The Board held a vote and the results were 4-4. A second vote was taken not including the Chair.

There is a discrepancy between the Board Bylaws and conduct of meetings according to Kerr and King.

It was MOVED by Councillor Branscombe and seconded by Mr. Morgan that Administration work with Mr. Morgan to clarify the process during an election when a tie vote occurs, and further that the Board Bylaws be revised to clearly reflect the clarified process and, that a report be brought forward at a later date.

CARRIED

L08/05

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, MEMBERS, AND STAFF REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

Service Excellence Model: Literacy Core Services

It was MOVED by Controller Barber and seconded by Ms. Deslippe that the report on Service Excellence Model: Literacy Core Services be received.

CARRIED

L08/05.1

Library Development Charges Study 2008: Overview

Every five years to comply with provincial legislation, the City of London undertakes a review of development charges in order to ensure that the capital projects to be funded reflect the forecasted level of population growth and development in the City. A report will be prepared for the February Board meeting.

It was MOVED by Controller Barber and seconded by Councillor Branscombe that the report on Library Development Charges Study 2008: Overview be received.

CARRIED

L08/05.2 Tribute to former LPL CEO, Darrel Skidmore - February 12, 2008

On February 12, 2008, there will be a tribute to former CEO Darrel Skidmore, which will include a donation to the Library of a water feature in recognition of Mr. Skidmore's contribution to LPL, to be mounted in the Central Passageway. Funds for the water feature and the reception are being donated by longtime Library supporter and personal friend of Mr. Skidmore, Mr. Edwin Holder of Stevenson and Hunt Insurance Limited. The reception, including the event agenda, will be coordinated by Mr. Holder.

It was MOVED by Councillor Branscombe and seconded by Councillor Winninger that a policy be created related to London Public Library tributes and recognitions awards.

CARRIED

It was MOVED by Ms. Lubell and seconded by Controller Barber that the report, Tribute to LPL CEO, Darrel Skidmore, be received as amended.

CARRIED

At 6:25 p.m, Ms. Tilley left the meeting.

L08/05.3 2007 Balanced Scorecard Priorities – Year End Status Report

Ms. Becker presented a year end status report of 2007 Balanced Scorecard Priorities. Thirty-two strategic projects were undertaken and 21 were fully completed. A report on the 2008 Priorities will be prepared for the February meeting.

The Board extended its congratulations to staff for completing 21 multi-year strategic projects.

It was MOVED by Ms. Deslippe and seconded by Councillor Branscombe that the report, 2007 Balanced Scorecard Priorities – Year End Status Report, be received.

CARRIED

L08/05.4 Historic Sites Committee

Controller Barber volunteered to serve as the Library Board appointment on the Historic Sites Committee for 2008. The amended committee list is included for the information of Board members.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:	Library Board Member: Gina Barber Staff: Margaret Mitchell
HISTORIC SITES COMMITTEE:	Library Board Member: Gina Barber Hilary Bates Neary, Gary Kerhoulas, John Lutman, Ann McKillop, Michael Murphy, Cliff Oliver, Jonathan Vance, Jason Jordan Staff: Margaret Mitchell, Arthur McClelland
THAMES TRUSTEE COUNCIL: (part of Southern Ontario Library Service)	Library Board Member: Joanne Tilley All public library boards are requested to appoint a representative to its area Council. Meets twice per year, April and October.
WESTERN FAIR ASSOCIATION:	Library Board Member: Josh Morgan Meets once or twice per year, has voting privileges for AGM in August; member may sit on committees Library is included as Civic representative, one of three categories including agriculture and member-at-large
C.E.O.'s APPOINTMENTS	
LONDON COUNCIL FOR ADULT EDUCATION:	Maryliz Quigley
PILLAR:	Jennifer Hesse
UNITED WAY:	Anne Baker
INVESTING IN CHILDREN:	Margaret Mitchell

L08/05.5 Historic Sites Committee Minutes – October 3, 2007 meeting

The Margaret Fullerton plaque will be officially presented to the Mayor and City Council on January 21st, 2008.

It was MOVED by Councillor Winninger and seconded by Controller Barber that the Historic Sites minutes of October 3, 2007 be received.
CARRIED

L08/06

CONSENT ITEMS

It was MOVED by Councillor Branscombe and seconded by Controller Barber that a policy be created to deal with anonymous letters received by the Library Board.

CARRIED

It was MOVED by Ms. Lubell and seconded by Mr. Colwell that the following consent items be received:

Events of Interest to Board Members

Press Clippings

Draft Agenda for February Meeting

Thank you notes from Mary Marshall and Laura MacRae for retirement gifts from Library Board. (not distributed)

Letter from Jean Dorey re: the plaque for her mother, Margaret Fullerton.

Letter from Anonymous re: London Public Library Board meeting procedures. (January 8th, 2008)

City of London Bylaws, Part 14 Delegations, Part 15 Communications, Part 16 Enquiries and 5(20) Anonymous Communications, etc.

Letter from S. Trosow re: applicability of open meeting legislation to LPL. (January 15, 2008)

CARRIED

ON MOTION, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Chair

Secretary

PRESENTATION TO LIBRARY BOARD JANUARY 2008.

Madame Chair and Board Members:

- We have reviewed the Library Sustainability Business Case and offer you some comments in the written submission before you.
- Of paramount importance is the request made that the Board not reduce the hours at Carson and other smaller branches as outlined in options 3 and 5.
- My presentation today focuses on that request. I will leave it to you to read the rest of the review.
- First let me take a moment to tell you about Old East Village, the community in which Carson Library is located.
- We have an active and talented community of dedicated people – both residents and business owners – who are working extremely hard to move Old East forward in its revitalization
- As a result of our efforts and the tremendous work done by the BIA we have had Old East designated as a Heritage Conservation District, saved and had Aeolian Hall designated as an historic building, are in the process of re-developing Queens Park and reconfiguring Queens Ave. between Quebec and Adelaide Streets to better suit the residential nature of that stretch of road.
- With all these projects and others that are in progress we have been working collaboratively with the City and its affiliated bodies to forge solutions that work for Old East and as a result for the City as a whole.
- It is with this spirit of collaboration and cooperation that we come here today.
- Our request of the Board today is that you not reduce the hours at Carson and the other smaller branches as outlined in options 3 and 5 of page 16 of the Sustainability report. Such a reduction would mean a cut of 40% of the branches' hours of operation and as such would severely compromise the viability of these branches.
- I refer you to pages 6 to 11 of our review document where we make the case that such reductions are unnecessary to meet the Library's sustainability needs, insensitive to the community of Old East and inconsistent with the Library's philosophical and operational principles. I will briefly deal with each of these in turn today and ask you to scrutinize these pages at your leisure so that our argument becomes clear to you.
- First that these cuts are unnecessary. We have undertaken a further analysis of the data presented in Appendix 2 and if you turn to pages 6 – 9 you will see the details. We looked at **percentage change** in circulation and attendance as this can be seen as an indicator of trends at the branch level. This was done for the two years of 2004 – 2006 and for each of the years separately. Tables A on page 7 show that for **circulation, Carson** (-6.0%) performed better than five other branches including Central (-11.5%) and Cherryhill (-7.4%) and did only 1% worse than Masonville (-5.0%). You will notice that **Northridge** (+6.9%) and **Lambeth** (+5.0%) performed well at fifth and sixth place. Table B on page 7 shows that for **attendances, Carson** (-5.2%) did better than six other branches including Central (-6.3%), Westmount (-8.6%) and Pond Mills (-49.3%). **Lambeth** (+8.9%) and **Northridge** (+4.2%) once again performed well at second and third spots.
- It is surprising to see that **Glanworth**, the branch that has been identified for closure has significantly outperformed everyone in both **circulation** (+28.8%) and **attendance** (+31.3%).

- Table C on page 8 shows percentage change in circulation for each of the years 2004–2005 and 2005-2006. Once again you will see that the smaller branches are not the worst performers. **Carson** did better than three other branches in 2004-2005 and better than eight other branches in 2005-2006. The other small branches fared even better outperforming everyone else in 2004-2005 and performing at about the middle in 2005-2006.
- Table D on page 9 show percentage change in attendance for 2004-2005 and 2005-2006. **Carson** performed better than nine other and four other branches respectively. Again you will note that the smaller branches are not the worst performers.
- If we now turn to the need to remove hours from the system in order to accommodate Monday opening at three other branches we argue that it is not necessary to remove such hours as proposed.
- Turning to page 10 you will find a table outlining current hours of operation of the various branches. You will see that the smaller branches already operate at 18 less hours than all the branches except Central where the difference is 34 hours.
- If we assume that Monday opening will be from 9-9 that will mean removing 36 hours from the system that will then be given to the three branches selected for Monday opening.
- If those 36 hours came equally from the 12 branches that already have more hours it would mean a reduction of 3 hours per branch per week. That's a 5.66% reduction for each branch and 4.35% reduction for Central. And each of the three branches that will then be open on Monday would enjoy a net gain of 16.98% of their current hours.
- It seems that Monday opening, if it is deemed that important, can be achieved without the smaller branches having to make all the sacrifice. Indeed, it can be done by the branches that already have much longer opening hours making relatively little sacrifice.
- Secondly that these cuts are insensitive to Old East Village. On page 11 we give you some insights into Old East Village. We believe that knowing the community is just as important as statistical information and that such insights should help inform decision-making. You will notice that information provided by a research project undertaken by University of Western Ontario Geography students (table F) shows that Carson library patrons access the library 76% of the time by means other than the automobile or transit. We are a walking community. This is good for the reasons outlined in our document, and, it is desirable in terms current urban design wisdom.
- Old East Village is a core community that is in the process of revitalization. Carson library is an ingredient in that revitalization as are Lorne Ave School and Queens Park. Again, these services offered at the neighbourhood level are in keeping with getting the basics right in urban design (this was made clear by Larry Beasley in his public presentation).
- Carson library was identified by the Ontario Professional Planners Institute Planners Action Team (PACT) report on Old East Village as a community amenity that should be improved. I want to point out that the PACT report was officially adopted by City council.
- Finally that it is inconsistent with the Library's philosophical and operational principles. In Appendix 1 of the Sustainability Business Case document your vision is described as the library being "**the community hub that strengthens individuals, families and neighbourhoods by connecting them to people and to relevant information, collections programs and resources.**" And the mission is described as being "**passionate about making a difference in our community, one person at a time, by enriching lives and empowering people through**

relevant, accessible, high quality library services.” Reducing hours by 40% at Carson is not going to strengthen our neighbourhood nor is it going to make the library more accessible to the 76% of people that walk or ride their bikes. In fact, quite the opposite is true.

- We ask then that you take into account the information that we have provided in your budget deliberations. Moreover, we ask that reduction in hours at the smaller branch libraries and at Carson in particular not be part of your strategy.

THANK-YOU.