

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF
THE GREATER SUDBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD**

March 9, 2023
Hybrid Meeting

Commencement: 5:35 p.m.
Adjournment: 6:58 p.m.

PRESENT

P. Arora, M. Bellmore, K. Bowman, F. Cormier, M. Lamarche, T. Laughren, A. Sizer, A. Thomson

REGRETS

M. Signoretti

STAFF

Brian Harding, CEO and Chief Librarian
Mette Krüger, Manager of Libraries and Heritage Services
Colleen Burns, New Central Library Project Lead

GUESTS

N/A

Meeting was called to order.

**LAND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Greater Sudbury Public Library serves a community located on the lands of the Anishnawbek Peoples and within the territory of the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850. This is the traditional territory of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, the Wahnapiatae First Nation and the Sagamok First Nation. Greater Sudbury Public Library gratefully acknowledges these Indigenous Nations for their guardianship of this land.

**DECLARATIONS OF
CONFLICT OF INTEREST
AND GENERAL NATURE
THEREOF**

None declared

AGENDA

The following motion was presented:

2023-1 A. Sizer / A. Thomson

THAT the agenda of the FIRST meeting of the Greater Sudbury Public Library Board, March 9, 2023, be approved.

CARRIED

**APPOINTMENT OF THE
CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

6.1 Nominations for Chair

Michael Bellmore was appointed as Chair.

The following motion was presented:

2023-2 A. Thomson / M. Lamarche

THAT Michael Bellmore be named as Chair of the Board.

CARRIED

6.2 Nominations for Vice Chair

Kate Bowman was appointed as Vice Chair.

The following motion was presented:

2023-3 A. Thomson / T. Laughren

THAT Kate Bowman be named as Vice Chair of the Board.

CARRIED

PRESENTATION

7.1 New Central Library Update (Brian Harding)

Brian gave a presentation familiarizing the Board with the history of New Central Library work at the Sudbury Public Library/Greater Sudbury Public Library, the present situation relating to our work on Junction East, and the proposed next steps for continuing work on the New Central Library.

Discussion

Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation and asked to receive a copy, which Brian agreed to share internally.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

8.1 New Central Library Direction (Brian Harding)

Brian discussed the motion that was passed at Council to pause and reassess the Junction East project. He recommended that the Board agree to go along with the assessment of the downtown alternate sites.

The Class B costing received for Junction East were over the \$98.5M funding cap, and there was further work to bring the costs in line with that cap. The consultants shared preliminary drawings that would bring it within that cap which would require squeezing essential functions of the library and reducing our ability to serve the community.

City staff suggested GSPL consider reducing our square footage at Junction East by another 40%; however, a change that significant would alter the fundamental direction that the Library Board has given to library staff as well as compromising the Board's vision for the project.

Last year, the Board endorsed a library design & endorsed our work to continue work on that design. This new direction from Council necessitates us to come to the Board to give us clear direction to follow the City's lead to support Council's new direction.

Moving forward, we believe that assessing existing infrastructure will be more feasible and a better use of staff resources than undertaking another value engineering process for Junction East.

Discussion

A Board member asked if the \$65M identified in the motion is for just the library or shared? Brian replied that he understood it would apply to the capital costs of all three Junction East partners. The member asked if that was the budget that was initially proposed, Brian indicated it wasn't. They asked if that amount is meant to include the sustainability features that were intended for Junction East. Brian replied that there may be City policies requiring large projects include sustainability and accessibility features, but there may be latitude to remove some due to cost.

A Board member asked if renovating the Mackenzie Library may be a possibility. Brian replied that while it hasn't been identified by Council or CGS staff, library staff will consider this option as a possibility. We plan to prepare a response to that consideration; however, the genesis of the New Central Library project is based on the understanding that further investment into the current Main Library facility is not the most effective option from an asset management perspective.

A member asked if there was federal funding that was expected for Junction East. Brian replied that the City had applied for federal funding for the project and has received information that could only be shared with the Board confidentially. There is no provision in the Public Libraries Act for Library Boards to go in camera to receive this type of information and therefore that information has not been shared with the Board. A member of Council added that the City had indicated they would request up to \$30M from the Federal government, and up to \$5M from the Provincial government. At the time, City Council was cautiously optimistic about its chances for success.

A member asked if the downtown business community is behind these changes, or if they stand to benefit. A member of Council responded that the Mayor has indicated he wants to deliver the fundamental objectives of the project at a lower cost. There was no push from the downtown business community.

A Board member asked about the budget presented for Junction East, and whether the amounts for the different organizations were presented together or separately. Brian replied that the budgets were presented together as one amount. Several Board members wondered if the Junction East partners may end up choosing different locations instead of remaining as one entity.

For comparison, Brian shared that the Guelph New Central Library (recent build) cost approximately \$66M for a comparable sized library, with 2 floors of underground parking.

The Chair added that the Board must give staff the tools to propel the project forward and reflect the Library Board's needs.

The following motion was presented:

2022-4 T. Laughren / A. Thomson

1. **THAT** the Library Board direct the CEO to suspend further detailed design work on the Junction East project pending further Council direction on the status of Junction East

2. **THAT** the Library Board direct the CEO to work with CGS staff to conduct a preliminary investigation into alternate locations for the New Central Library which have the potential to satisfy City of Greater Sudbury Council's direction to "reconfigure existing high-value infrastructure and community-owned buildings in downtown Sudbury"

3. **THAT** the Library Board direct the CEO to work with CGS staff to consider opportunities for cost reduction in the New Central Library portion of the Junction East project without compromising the fundamental objectives or functional requirements of the New Central Library project

4. **THAT** the Library Board direct the CEO to present an updated New Central Library Functional Requirements report to the Library Board for potential endorsement

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

The following motion was presented:

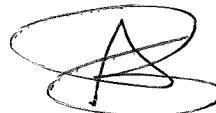
2023-5 A. Thomson / T. Laughren

THAT this meeting does now adjourn. Time: 6:58 pm

CARRIED



Brian Harding, CEO



Michael Bellmore, Chair