



open for discovery

RED DEER LIBRARY BOARD
6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12, 2015
Waskasoo-Kiwanis Meeting Room

MINUTES

Present: Lisa Wakefield (Chair), Lawrence Lee, Lionel Lustgarten, Anita Thomas, Sylvia Bolkowy, Verda Lee Gilchrist, Jackie Ammeter, Leah Tymko, Jim Taylor, Christina Wilson (CEO), Jannie Ypma (Minutes)

Regrets: Mark Waters

Welcome & Chair's Remarks

Lisa called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Lisa welcomed the Board members and the members of the public in attendance. She reviewed the meeting agenda and reminded the members of the public that this was a Board meeting and that only Board members would be able to speak to the item listed on the agenda. The Chair reviewed the consensus of the Board that motions brought forward at this meeting would be dealt with by ballot vote, as per Library Board guidelines and Robert's Rules of Order. Jannie will pass out the ballots, collect them, tally them and give the results to Lisa.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

There was no conflict of interest declared.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.
TAYLOR / GILCHRIST / CARRIED

Items for Decision

14. Inglewood School/Public Library Partnership

Lisa reviewed the minutes from the Board meeting of February 26, 2015 regarding the new information brought by Craig Curtis, Manager, City of Red Deer and Piet Langstraat, Superintendent of Schools, Red Deer Public School District 104. At that meeting, Craig Curtis gave assurances of the City's commitment to community spaces and that the public library would operate in the space.

Christina reviewed the CEO's report on the Inglewood School Proposal, dated March 11, 2015. The background to the processes bringing us to this point was covered as well as the recent developments, service model and lessons learned. Charts showing the demographics of the neighbourhood and library users of the Timberlands Branch were discussed. École Barrie Wilson Elementary School is a dual track school that

includes both French Immersion and English options. This means that students would come from all over the city. The Inglewood School would be a neighbourhood school since it will only have the English option for students. This could potentially limit users of the library to come only from the immediate area surrounding the school. But what draws people to visit a library is the welcoming space and good collections available for borrowing.

Lisa invited each of the Board members to speak to the Inglewood School Proposal in turn. Each of the Board members expressed appreciation for the staff effort to supply the extra information in the documents prepared for this meeting. Points brought forward include the following:

- Looking at the documents and information provided by staff reinforced the initial decision to say “No” to the Inglewood School Proposal.
- Have a greater appreciation for the effect this decision would have on front line staff.
- The City and School Board effectively countered objections raised by Board members at the February 26, 2015 meeting by offering solutions to help the library move forward.
- After driving to the site of the proposed Inglewood School it became apparent that:
 - The neighbourhood has lots of potential library users
 - It is close to the trails system for easy access to the proposed school/public library
 - The bus route is nearby.
 - The library is tucked away from a major traffic route and would not be visible to a large segment of the city population that would be spur-of-the-moment library users.
- The possibility of a temporary location for the library at the Inglewood School is attractive but raises other questions regarding which organisation would keep the funding, furniture and collections if the public library moved to another location. Would the resources that the public library took away from the partnership be enough to build a separate stand-alone library?
- This proposal is not popular now but as with the trails system that was not enthusiastically supported 30 years ago, the school/public library concept may be an important part of our library system in the future.
- Report from the staff includes a study that stated that school/public libraries do not serve either partner well, nor the population it is mandated to serve. Each one has a different role in the community.
- Comment made by Craig Curtis was repeated regarding the answer to a question of when the City would support a stand-alone public library. The answer was “When the community wants it”. And since the last community survey showed libraries low on the list of wants, it may be a long time before City funding for a new stand-alone library branch is available.
- Sometimes one board member was in favour of the proposed Inglewood Branch but other times not.

- If the Board decided to agree to a temporary branch at Inglewood, where would the budget go? Would it go with the public library when it left and would it be enough to build a separate stand-alone building for the public library? This may be very expensive and we would need to partner with another organisation in order to fund it.
- Being in a place that people visit frequently – such as a shopping centre.
- How does it look to the citizens of Red Deer when the public library says NO to such a seemingly advantageous partnership with the City of Red Deer and the Red Deer Public School District; especially when the Golden Circle and the Primary Care Network may be involved as well.
- How valid are the results from the community survey and can we really trust the results. Sometimes results are skewed toward what the people conducting the survey want to hear.
- Have not heard a lot more from Craig Curtis and Piet Langstraat that adds to the discussion of this issue and would make the Board want to go ahead with the proposed partnership in Inglewood.
- The Board should be developing the criteria necessary to making a decision about another public library branch. If we don't know what the community wants, how can we make an informed decision? We need to feel that we are ready ourselves to go ahead with a fourth branch.
- There was concern with the emphasis placed on the idea that we need to seize this opportunity now because we may not have another chance for a fourth branch for a very long time.
- The Board did their due diligence and is prepared to make a decision. The previous decision was made in good faith with the information available. Why would the Board come back to discuss this issue?
- Some Board members felt unduly pressured to reconsider the decision. There was really no new information presented. We would be rushed into opening a fourth branch before we are ready.
- Some Board members expressed unhesitating support for the fourth branch at Inglewood.
- It seemed that most of the discussion revolved around operational issues. As a Board, this is not our mandate. The Board is entrusted with the vision of setting goals for the library. The Board has a responsibility to use the collective wisdom of those it represents to move forward toward the future. The Board has the responsibility to monitor the budget and decide how the budget will be used to accomplish the goals it has set for the organisation.
- Partnerships are vital to the success of libraries. Expressed excitement about the new branch at Timberlands and the opportunities to try new things in a new space. “If you build it, they will come”.

MOTION: That the Library Board considers further discussion regarding the motion made at the December 17, 2015 Library Board meeting which reads “That the Library Board sign the Partnership Statement of Commitment and pursue the Inglewood Library Branch opportunity”.
LEE / GILCHRIST

A ballot vote was taken:

3 members voted to approve the motion

6 members voted to oppose the motion

The motion is defeated.

Adjournment

Lisa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Approved _____
Lisa Wakefield (Chair)