

**Approved Minutes  
Calgary Public Library Board  
Central Library Boardroom 0-11  
Wednesday, May 28, 2025  
5:30 pm**

**In Attendance:**

**Board:**

- Evan Legate (Chair)
- Kate Andrews
- Haritha Devulapally
- Gillian Hynes
- Aaron J. Noga \*
- Councillor Evan Spencer
- Margaret Wu

*\* Attended virtually*

**Regrets:**

- Al-Karim Khimji
- Crystal Manyfingers
- Dana Saric

**Administration:**

- Sarah Meilleur, *CEO*
- Tracy Johnson, *CEO, Calgary Public Library Foundation*
- Jim Chisholm, *Executive Director, Technology and CTO*
- Barb Gillard, *Acting Executive Director, Visitor Experience*
- Laura Komianos, *Executive Assistant*
- Paul Lane, *Executive Director, Strategy and Planning*
- Amanda Robertson, *Executive Assistant*
- Heather Robertson, *Executive Director, Service Design and Innovation*

**Guests:**

- Elsa Gee, *CUPE Local 1169*

**1. Treaty 7 Opening**

Haritha Devulapally opened the meeting respectfully with a land acknowledgment. The Calgary Public Library Board opens all meetings by acknowledging the ancestral home, culture, and oral teachings of the Treaty 7 signatories which includes the Siksika Nation, Piikani Nation, Kainai Nation, the Îlethka Stoney Nakoda Nation, consisting of the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Good Stoney Bands, and the people of the Tsuut'ina Nation. We also recognize the Métis people of Alberta who call Treaty 7 their home.

At Calgary Public Library we celebrate stories: the stories of the community and the land that we live on. We serve the community on Wicîspa, Guts'ists'I, and Moh'kinstsis, which describes the gathering place where the Bow and Elbow rivers meet. We respect all people who share, celebrate, and care for the Treaty 7 territory of southern Alberta and we honour the original caretakers of the land who remind us of the ongoing histories that precede us. We recognize our shared responsibilities going forward to help bring everyone together on this journey of Truth and Reconciliation.

**2. Chair's Welcoming Remarks**

Evan Legate welcomed all members of the Board, Library Administration, and one CUPE 1169 representative to the May Board meeting.

### **3. Review of Agenda**

The Governance Committee report will be presented by Kate Andrews in the absence of Dana Saric.

The Q1 2025 Financial Update has been incorrectly labeled as Q1 2024.

Evan Legate directed Administration to amend the agenda accordingly.

**MOVED** by Gillian Hynes and seconded by Margaret Wu that the Calgary Public Library Board approve the agenda for the May 28, 2025 meeting as presented.

Carried unanimously

### **4. Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda included the following items:

A. To approve the minutes of the March 19, 2025 Board meeting.

**MOVED** by Kate Andrews and seconded by Gillian Hynes that the Calgary Public Library Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Carried unanimously

### **5. Business Arising**

#### **A. Alberta Library Trustees Association Report**

Margaret Wu advised the Board that the Alberta Library Trustees Association (ALTA) Board has not met since the last meeting of the Calgary Public Library Board. The ALTA Board is currently undertaking a significant update to its website for the benefit of its members. Wu will advise the Board of upcoming significant dates, including the Annual General Meeting, when the information becomes available.

#### **B. Other Business Arising**

None.

### **6. Chair's Report**

Evan Legate expressed gratitude to all Board members for participating in the annual retreat as well as to those on the Board and in Administration responsible for planning and organizing the day. The Board held productive conversations

Legate congratulated Sarah Meilleur on her appointment as Chair of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council.

Legate congratulated Tracy Johnson and Calgary Public Library Foundation on a gift announcement this week sharing that TD Canada has donated \$300,000 to support the Indigenous Artist in Residence and Elder in Residence programs.

### **7. CEO's Report**

Sarah Meilleur presented operational highlights from her report to the Board.

In May, the provincial government released news that it is investigating whether to prohibit certain titles from school libraries and public libraries have been monitoring this development closely. Calgary Public Library is committed to intellectual freedom and freedom of expression as pillars of a healthy democracy. The Library also maintains its unwavering commitment to providing a robust collection of materials highlighting diverse and opposing viewpoints.

The Library celebrated a significant financial gift from TD Bank Group this week. The funds will support the Library's popular residency programs, including Indigenous Artist in Residence, Newcomer in Residence and Elder in Residence. These programs are impactful for the residents and the public as they engage in new ways with art, culture, and traditional knowledge.

The Calgary Public Library Foundation's Fifth Book Campaign had a successful start and feedback from the community has been very positive. Funds have already been put to use by the Collections department in response to demand for digital and physical titles.

Library leadership is looking forward to moving ahead on strategy planning work following a productive Board retreat last weekend. This year will mark a new approach to strategy framework, allowing for longer term goals. Incredible work is already taking place across the system to gather feedback from staff and the community that will inform next steps.

A resolution requesting increases to provincial per capita funding and tying per capita funding to current population levels has been approved by both the Town of Stettler and Calgary City Council. These two municipalities will bring it forward for discussion at the Alberta Municipalities Convention in November 2025.

Meilleur sent letters of welcome to the Honourable Dan Williams, appointed as Minister of Municipal Affairs earlier this month, and new Deputy Minister Jonah Mozeson. This change in Cabinet represents an opportunity to build new relationships along with a shared understanding of the important work libraries do to support Albertans.

**MOVED** by Margaret Wu and seconded by Kate Andrews that the CEO's Report be received by the Calgary Public Library Board for information as presented.

Carried unanimously

## **8. Governance Committee**

### **A. Report of the April 2, 2025 Governance Committee Meeting**

Kate Andrews presented the minutes of the April 2, 2025 Governance Committee meeting on behalf of Committee Chair Dana Saric. Andrews advised that CEO 360 results will be reviewed at the June 16 Governance meeting and in-camera at the June 25, 2025 Board meeting.

**MOVED** by Haritha Devulapally and seconded by Gillian Hynes that the April 2, 2025 Governance Committee Report be received by the Calgary Public Library Board for information as presented.

Carried unanimously

## **9. Strategy and Community Committee**

### **A. Report of the April 9, 2025 Strategy and Community Committee Meeting**

Kate Andrews presented the minutes of the April 9, 2025 Strategy and Community Committee meeting.

**MOVED** by Haritha Devulapally and seconded by Margaret Wu that the April 9, 2025 Strategy and Community Committee Report be received for information as presented.

Carried unanimously

## **10. Audit and Finance Committee**

### **A. Report of the March 12, 2025 Audit and Finance Committee Meeting**

Aaron J. Noga had presented highlights from the March 12, 2025 Audit and Finance Committee meeting at the March 19, 2025 meeting of the Board. The minutes have been included in this meeting package for the public record.

**MOVED** by Margaret Wu and seconded by Councillor Evan Spencer that the March 12, 2025 Audit and Finance Committee Report be received for information as presented.

Carried unanimously

### **B. Report of the April 30, 2025 Audit and Finance Committee Meeting**

Aaron J. Noga presented the minutes of the April 30, 2025 Audit and Finance Committee meeting.

**MOVED** by Margaret Wu and seconded by Councillor Evan Spencer that the April 30, 2025 Audit and Finance Committee Report be received for information as presented.

Carried unanimously

### **C. Q1 2025 Risk Register**

Aaron J. Noga presented highlights from the Q1 2025 Risk Register.

**MOVED** by Margaret Wu and seconded by Councillor Evan Spencer that the Q1 2025 Risk Register be received for information as presented.

Carried unanimously

### **D. Q1 2025 Financial Update**

Aaron J. Noga presented highlights from the Q1 2025 Financial Update.

**MOVED** by Margaret Wu and seconded by Councillor Evan Spencer that the Q1 2025 Financial Update be received for information as presented.

Carried unanimously

## **11. Calgary Public Library Foundation Update**

Tracy Johnson shared highlights from the Calgary Public Library Foundation report.

The Fifth Book Campaign has already raised \$200,000 in under two months, which is a very strong start. This has been collected from over 1,500 donors, exceeding expectations for this

slower time of year in charitable giving.

Pathway to Play, the campaign supporting the Signal Hill Library Outdoor Early Learning Centre, has also been proceeding well. This campaign is soliciting purchases for window inscriptions and hosting “Blind Date with a Book” promotions at Signal Hill Library in partnership with Owl’s Nest Books and other generous donors who provided the hidden prizes linked to each of the gift-wrapped books.

In May, the Foundation hosted an Epilogue Society tea to recognize potential and committed donors wishing to leave a gift for the Library in their will. This group continues to grow and there are nearly 60 confirmed legacy donors registered at this time.

The Foundation’s Annual General Meeting was held earlier in May and marked the departure of two board members: Rob Van Wielingen and Jason Jogia. Two new board members were welcomed as well: Kara Brennan and Scott Smith.

**MOVED** by Kate Andrews and seconded by Gillian Hynes that the Calgary Public Library Foundation Report be received by the Calgary Public Library Board for information as presented.

Carried unanimously

## **12. Board Workplan Review**

Evan Legate reviewed the workplan and advised that the July meeting is a placeholder each year for cases when there is time-sensitive business requiring Board approval. Legate advised that a decision will be made by Board leadership and Administration in June regarding the July meeting.

No changes were requested at this time.

## **13. Other Business**

Councillor Evan Spencer advised that the new 10-year capital planning notice of motion was brought forward at City Council. The Board was advised that Library Administration and City Administration communicate regularly about changes such as this along with the potential implications for capital project requests.

## **14. Adjournment**

**MOVED** by Haritha Devulapally that the meeting be adjourned at 6:28 pm.

Transcribed by Amanda Robertson.

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Evan Legate  
Board Chair