



Ajax Public Library Board 6.1 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 18, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Place: Rotary Room, Main Branch

Library Board Present

Piyali Correya (Chair)

Deborah McDougall Jones (Vice-Chair)

Voytek Bialkowski

Sepelene Deonarine

Mallik Fernando

Rebecca Hayes

Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi

Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Regrets

Douglas Miller

Library Staff

Sarah Vaisler, Chief Librarian & Executive Officer and Secretary/Treasurer

Melissa Redden, Manager of Public Service

Jason Tooral, Manager of Corporate Services

Sai Mahendran, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mallik Fernando joined at 7:01 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

We would like to begin this meeting by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is situated within the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas. More specifically, the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, signatories of the Gunshot Treaty of 1788 and the Williams Treaties of 1923. This land is, and will continue to be, home to the Indigenous Peoples. Let us acknowledge the mistakes and traumas of the past through authenticity and support truth and reconciliation. Let us engage and celebrate Indigenous communities by being leaders of action in acknowledging the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations towards truth and reconciliation. Let us keep these principles close, as we continue towards truth and reconciliation and as we move forward with kindness and respect as a community.

3. Approval of the Agenda

25-09/01

Moved by: Rebecca Hayes

Seconded by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approves the agenda of the September 18, 2025, Board Meeting.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

5. Guest Presentation:

5.1 Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade – Alli Leetham, Executive Director

Alli Leetham presented to the Board an update on key initiatives, including the Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade's (APBOT) 70th anniversary and upcoming Board of Directors nominations for 2026. She highlighted the 2025–2028 vision focused on growth, inclusion, advocacy, community, and sustainability. Alli shared APBOT's strategic partnerships, membership growth, and plans for 2025 as the Year of the Member to enhance engagement and value.

Voytek Bialkowski inquired about how the Library could further leverage its partnership with the APBOT.

6. Consent Agenda

25-09/02

Moved by: Voytek Bialkowski

Seconded by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approves the Consent Agenda as amended.

CARRIED

Item 6.2 Chief Librarian's Report and & 6.11 Program Outcome Evaluation Report were pulled for further discussion in Other Business as items 8.8 & 8.9.

7. Correspondence

7.1 Customer Testimonial – TD Summer Reading Club

A testimonial video featuring Library's TD Summer Reading Club volunteers Aayan, Sofia, Kevin, Jimit, Anuva, and Pranavi was presented to the Board. The volunteers shared that engaging with children and families felt rewarding and enjoyable, and helped them develop customer service, social, and communication skills while building new connections.

7.2 Grandview Kids Gratitude Letter

Regional Councillor Sterling Lee praised the Ajax Public Library staff for strengthening community relationships and providing resources and support to children with accessibility needs.

25-09/03 Moved by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi
Seconded by: Mallik Fernando

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receives the Grandview Kids Gratitude Letter for information.

CARRIED

8. Other Business

8.1 TAC Update – Ananya Parthasarathy, TAC Representative

Ananya shared that initial planning is underway for upcoming programs, including an arts and crafts program, a Halloween event, and an event in honour of Islamic Heritage Month. TAC commenced its new term on September 15, 2025, with around 59 members, with the sub-committee members and executive roles to be determined during the week of September 22, 2025.

8.2 Council Update – Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Regional Councillor Sterling Lee provided insights on the process undertaken for the renovation of the Durham Regional Headquarters. He also shared information regarding the Fairgrounds Grand Opening, highlighting the drone show, shuttle services available, food trucks, and various activities.

8.3 Internal Monitoring Report – E.L. 3.10 Staff Treatment

25-09/04 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Sepelene Deonarine

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receives the monitoring report EL 3.10 Staff Treatment and agrees that it provides reasonable interpretation of the policy and evidence of compliance.

CARRIED

8.4 Board Report – Review of Board Training and Procedures

25-09/05 Moved by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi
Seconded by: Deborah McDougall Jones

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board agrees the revised Board Training Policy and Procedures as presented.

CARRIED

8.5 Committee Updates

None.

8.6 Announcements

Town of Ajax will be hosting a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation community even at Pat Bayly Square on Tuesday, September 30, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

8.7 CLEO Report

Regional Councillor Sterling Lee inquired about Ajax Chess Club's usage of the Library, borrowing terms of Reptilia Passes and an analysis of the Library's social media performance against other Durham comparators. Rebecca requested information regarding the components of the marketing budget.

25-09/06 Moved by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi
Seconded by: Deborah McDougall Jones

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receives this report for information.

CARRIED

8.8 Program Outcome Evaluation Report

Rebecca requested clarification on the types of programs being evaluated by the Program Evaluation Matrix, as outlined in Appendix A of the Report.

25-09/07 Moved by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi
Seconded by: Deborah McDougall Jones

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receives this report for information.

CARRIED

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

25-09/08

Moved by: Voytek Bialkowski

Seconded by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi

Motion that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Next meeting:

Thursday October 16, 2025

7:00 p.m. Rotary Room, Main Branch