



# Ajax Public Library

## Ajax Public Library Board Minutes

### 6.1 April 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes

**Place:** Multi-Purpose Room, Audley Branch

**Date:** April 17, 2025

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Piyali Correya(Chair), Mallik Fernando, Sepelene Deonarine, Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi, Deputy Mayor/Regional Councillor Sterling Lee, Douglas Miller

**Regrets:** Sarah Vaisler, Deborah McDougall Jones(Vice-Chair), Rebecca Hayes, Voytek Bialkowski

**Staff:** Jason Tooral - Manager of Corporate Services  
Melissa Redden - Manager of Public Service/Acting CLEO  
Sai Mahendran - Executive Assistant

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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

25-04/01

Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee  
Seconded by: Mallik Fernando

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approves the agenda of the April 17, 2025, Board Meeting.

**CARRIED**

---

#### **4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None.

#### **5. Guest Presentation:**

##### **5.1 Melissa Redden (Manager of Public Service) – Safety and Operations, Service Area Update**

Melissa Redden, Manager of Public Service, provided the Library Board with an update on the Library's Safety and Operations. She reaffirmed the Library's commitment to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment. Melissa highlight the ongoing staff training initiatives, collaborations with community partners, progress on significant safety and operational projects, and the Library's proactive incident response efforts.

#### **6. Consent Agenda**

Item 6.5 Committee Composition was pulled for further discussion in Other Business as item 8.8.

25-04/02

Moved by: Douglas Miller

Seconded by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

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

**CARRIED**

#### **7. Correspondence**

##### **7.1 Customer Testimonial – Iris Kacor and Evie Reid**

Iris and Evie shared their positive experiences at the Makerspace, appreciating the variety of activities provided by the Library. Evie enjoys collecting stickers for her creations, including her fingerprint-based project. Iris praised the Library's services, highlighting the availability of books and opportunities, and encouraged others to utilize the resources.

#### **8. Other Business**

##### **8.1 TAC Update – Hansika J. Shetty**

Hansika shared upcoming TAC events, which includes a movie night on April 25, the HeARTbeat Art Show reception on May 28, and a Free Comic Book Day on May 3. She highlighted summer activities such as writing and reading contests. TAC is exploring diversity-focused initiatives with events such as a Pride celebration in June and a Diwali cultural event under consideration.

---

## **8.2 Council Update – Regional Councillor Sterling Lee**

Regional Councilor Sterling Lee reported that approximately 75 businesses in Ajax and 4,000 local employees are directly affected by U.S. tariffs. He highlighted ongoing efforts to support Canadian businesses, such as updated procurement policies and the tradition of playing the national anthem at each Council meeting. He commended the Community Healing Ceremony held on April 4, which saw approximately two hundred attendees. Regional Councillor Lee informed the Board about early voting for the Federal election on April 18, with the election day set on April 28

## **8.3 Internal Monitoring Report – E.L. 3.8 General Executive Constraint Policy**

25-04/03      Moved by: Sepelene Deonarine  
Seconded by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receives the monitoring report EL 3.8 General Executive Constraint Policy to the Board and agrees that it provides reasonable interpretation of the policy and evidence of compliance.

**CARRIED**

## **8.4 Board Report – Board/Staff Relationship Policies Review**

25-04/04      Moved by: Douglas Miller  
Seconded by: Mallik Fernando

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approves the revisions to the “Board/Staff Relationship Policies,” 2.1-2.6 as presented.

**CARRIED**

## **8.5 Staff Report – 2024 Year End Financial Report**

25-04/05      Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee  
Seconded by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approve the transfer of \$125,789 from the Stabilization Reserve to the 2024 Operating budget.

**CARRIED**

---

## 8.6 Committee Updates

None.

## 8.7 Announcements

Regional Councillor Sterling Lee is hosting Ward meeting ARC Community April 29, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Library's Volunteer Appreciation Event on May 4, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Library's May Board Meeting will be held at the Grandview Kids Express Branch.

## 8.8 Committee Composition

25-04/06      Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee  
Seconded by: Sepelene Deonarine

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approve the increase of the Community Engagement Committee participants from three to four and appoint Piyali Correya as the fourth member.

**CARRIED**

## 9. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

25-04/07      Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee  
Seconded by: Douglas Miller

Motion that the meeting be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

Next meeting:                      Thursday May 15, 2025  
7:00 p.m. Grandview Kids Express Branch.