



Ajax Public Library

Ajax Public Library Board Minutes

6.1 – March 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Place: Rotary Room, Main Branch

Date: March 20, 2025

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Present: Piyali Correya (Chair), Mallik Fernando, Sepelene Deonarine, Voytek Bialkowski, Deputy Mayor/Regional Councillor Sterling Lee, Rebecca Hayes, Deborah McDougall Jones (Vice-Chair), Douglas Miller, Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi

Regrets:

Staff: Sarah Vaisler	- CLEO & Secretary/Treasurer
Jason Tooral	- Manager of Corporate Services
Melissa Redden	- Manager of Public Service
Sai Mahendran	- Executive Assistant
Kiley Percy	- Coordinator of Marketing and Communications
Sarah Dodge	- Coordinator of Community Engagement
Makeda Davis	- Marketing 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 Mississauga's 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. Election of the Board's Executive Positions (Chair and Vice-Chair)

Piyali Correya (Chair) declared nominations open for the position of Chair.

25-03/01 Moved by: Rebecca Hayes
 Seconded by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Motion that Piyali Correya be nominated for
Chair.

CARRIED

25-03/02 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
 Seconded by: Douglas Miller

Motion that nominations for Chair be closed.

CARRIED

Piyali Correya assumes the position of Chair and declared nominations open for
Vice Chair.

25-03/03 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
 Seconded by: Douglas Miller

Motion that Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi be
nominated for Vice-Chair.

CARRIED

25-03/04 Moved by: Piyali Correya
 Seconded by: Rebecca Hayes

Motion that Deborah McDougall Jones be
nominated for Vice-Chair.

CARRIED

25-03/05 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
 Seconded by: Douglas Miller

Motion that be nominations for Vice-Chair be
closed.

CARRIED

The two nominees exited the meeting. A vote
was held.

25-03/06 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Mallik Fernando

Motion that Deborah McDougall Jones
assumes the position of Vice-Chair.

Deborah McDougall Jones assumes the position of Vice-Chair.

4. Approval of the Agenda

25-03/07 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Douglas Miller

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board
approves the agenda of the March 20, 2025,
Board Meeting.

CARRIED

5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

6. Guest Presentation:

6.1 Library's Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Staff Committee Update

Sarah Dodge, Coordinator of Community Engagement, and Makeda Davis, Marketing Assistant, updated the Library Board on the efforts of the Library's Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity (LEIDS) Staff Committee. They provided insights into the committee's background, current composition, strategic accomplishments for 2023 and 2024, and initiatives planned for 2025.

7. Consent Agenda

Item 7.2 Chief Librarian's Report was pulled for further discussion in Other Business as item 9.7.

25-02/08 Moved by: Douglas Miller
Seconded by: Rebecca Hayes

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

CARRIED

8. Correspondence

8.1 Customer Testimonial – Volunteer Matteus

Volunteer Matteus shared his experience at the Library was rewarding. He appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the community by helping children in reading and learning, and he formed lasting friendships throughout his time there.

9. Other Business

9.1 TAC Update – Hansika J. Shetty

Hansika informed the Library Board about TAC's successful Young Adult Movie Marathon and shared the upcoming spring movie night on April 25. She outlined TAC's summer initiatives, including a Library staff versus teen movie contest and an End-of-School-Year celebration.

9.2 Council Update – Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Regional Councillor Sterling Lee highlighted that Council signed a letter supporting DEI initiatives. He also announced that a motion was passed to investigate and prioritize Canada-first procurement practices. Regional Councillor Lee introduced the new MPP, Robert Cerjanec, and informed the Board about a potential federal election at the end of April or beginning of May.

9.3 Internal Monitoring Report – E.L. 3.5 Emergency Executive Succession

25-03/09

Moved by: Rebecca Hayes
Seconded by: Sepelene Deonarine

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receives the monitoring report EL 3.5 Emergency Executive Succession to the Board and agrees that it provides reasonable interpretation of the policy and evidence of compliance.

CARRIED

9.4 Staff Report – 2024 Year End Financial Report

25-03/10

Moved by: Rebecca Hayes
Seconded by: Mallik Fernando

MOTION: That the Ajax Public Library Board
receive this report for information.

CARRIED

9.5 Committee Updates

None.

9.6 Announcements

The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries expressed their appreciation for the Ajax Public Library Board's increased donation and ongoing commitment to supporting First Nation Public Libraries.

9.7 Chief Librarian's Report

Regarding section 4.3 of the Chief Librarian's Report, Piyali Correya asked if record-keeping for incident management was undertaken to enable proactive response planning given the 88% increase in incidents in the last year. The CLEO shared that this was being done and that the Library continued to find ways to address incidents through staff training, and security personnel presence.

25-03/11

Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Douglas Miller

MOTION: That the Ajax Public Library Board
receive this report for information.

CARRIED

10. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

25-03/12

Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Douglas Miller

Motion that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Next meeting:

Thursday April 17, 2025
7:00 p.m. Multi-Purpose Room, Audley Branch.