



Ajax Public Library Board

6.1 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: November 20, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Place: Rotary Room, Main Branch

Library Board Present

Piyali Correya (Chair)

Voytek Bialkowski

Sepelene Deonarine

Mallik Fernando

Rebecca Hayes

Douglas Miller

Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi

Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Regrets

Deborah McDougall Jones (Vice-Chair)

Library Staff

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

Melissa Redden, Manager of Public Service

Jason Tooral, Manager of Corporate Services

Kiley Percy, Coordinator of Marketing and Communications

Chris Zorn, Coordinator of Corporate Technology Services

Sai Mahendran, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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.

Sepelene Deonarine joined at 7:03 p.m.

Voytek Bialkowski joined at 7:04 p.m.

3. Approval of the Agenda

November agenda amended to include 2026 OLA Super Conference as item 8.9 in Other Business.

25-11/01 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Douglas Miller

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approves the agenda of the November 20, 2025, Board Meeting as amended.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

5. Guest Presentation:

5.1 Michelle Arbuckle, Executive Director - Ontario Library Association

Michelle Arbuckle provided an overview of how the Ontario Library Association differs from the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, the Canadian Urban Libraries Council, and the Canadian Federation of Library Associations. She reviewed OLA's committee structure and explained that the organization is funded through individual and organizational memberships and professional development events, including the OLA Super Conference. Ms. Arbuckle also highlighted OLA's 2025–2028 Strategic Plan, key membership benefits, and upcoming Ontario Library Association and Ontario Public Library Association awards.

6. Consent Agenda

Items 6.2 Chief Librarian's Report & 6.9 Makerspace Utilization Report were pulled for further discussion in Other Business as items 8.10 & 8.11.

25-11/02 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Douglas Miller

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

CARRIED

7. Correspondence

7.1 2026 Design-A-Bookmark Contest Winners (Video)

A video compilation of the 2026 Library Bookmark Contest Winners was presented to the Board.

8. Other Business

8.1 TAC Update – Tanvi Lee, TAC Co-President

TAC Board Representative Tanvi Lee provided an overview of the Committee’s ongoing youth-focused initiatives and upcoming programming, including an Arts & Crafts and Mental Health Support Night, as well as the Santa Claus Parade Warm-Up Party. Regional Councillor Lee encouraged the Committee to explore opportunities to increase engagement with politicians.

8.2 Council Update – Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Regional Councillor Sterling Lee provided the Board with an update from the November 17, Council meeting, noting that the Temporary Use Zoning By-Law for 126-142 Commercial Avenue was approved, allowing a temporary shelter to house up to 50 individuals by December. Councillor Lee emphasized that the budget guideline was set at 6.5%, as a preliminary figure as deliberations are ongoing. Councillor Lee further highlighted that Regional budget discussions are scheduled for December 11 and 12, followed by the Town of Ajax Budget meeting on December 15.

8.3 Internal Monitoring Report – Executive Limitations 3.11 Treatment of Customers

25-11/03

Moved by: Rebecca Hayes

Seconded by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receives the monitoring report EL 3.11 Treatment of Customers and agrees that it provides reasonable interpretation of the policy and evidence of compliance.

CARRIED

8.4 Draft 2026 Annual Agenda and Work Plan

25-11/04

Moved by: Douglas Miller

Seconded by: Voytek Bialkowski

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board adopts the Draft 2026 Annual Agenda and Work Plan as presented.

CARRIED

8.5 Board Report – Board Governance Process Policy Review

25-11/05 Moved by: Mallik Fernando
Seconded by: Voytek Bialkowski

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approves and adopts the revised Governance Process Policy as presented.

CARRIED

8.6 Staff Report – 2026 Draft Operating and Capital Budget

25-11/06 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Sepelene Deonarine

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approves the 2026 Draft Operating and Capital Budget.

CARRIED

8.7 Committee Updates

None.

8.8 Announcements

Sepelene Deonarine discussed Lakeridge Health's CAP Committee Strategic Plan to promote awareness about the impacts of homelessness on health care.

8.9 2026 OLA Super Conference

Piyali Correya, Sepelene Deonarine and Mallik Fernando requested the Board's approval to attend the 2026 OLA Super Conference with reimbursement of expenses as per the *Board Training Policy and Procedure*.

25-11/07 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Mallik Fernando

Motion that Ajax Public Library Board approves 3 Board members at an upset limit of \$4,000 for registration and accommodation expense to attend the 2026 OLA Super Conference.

CARRIED

8.10 Chief Librarian's Report

Rebecca inquired about the current usage levels of the Library's NovelBranch and potential avenues to enhance community outreach related to the service.

25-11/08 Moved by: Rebecca Hayes
 Seconded by: Voytek Bialkowski

Motion that Ajax Public Library Board receive this report as information.

CARRIED

8.11 Makerspace Utilization Report

Rebecca praised the increase in foot traffic and usage in the Makerspace and inquired about resources needed to support the Makerspace going forward.

25-11/09 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
 Seconded by: Rebecca Hayes

Motion that Ajax Public Library Board receive this report as information.

CARRIED

9. Closed Session (Commenced at 8:32 p.m.)

9.1 *To discuss matters related to labour relations or employee negotiations.*

25-11/10 Moved by: Mallik Fernando
 Seconded by: Voytek Bialkowski

Motion that Ajax Public Library Board move into Closed Session.

CARRIED

25-11/11 Moved by: Mallik Fernando
 Seconded by: Voytek Bialkowski

Motion that Ajax Public Library Board rise from Closed Session.

CARRIED

Open Meeting (8:58 p.m.)

Ratify Decisions made in Closed Session

25-11/12 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
 Seconded by: Voytek Bialkowski

Motion that all decisions made in Closed Session
be ratified.

CARRIED

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

25-11/13 Moved by: Douglas Miller
 Seconded by: Rebecca Hayes

Motion that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Next meeting:

Thursday February 19, 2026
7:00 p.m. Rotary Room, Main Branch