



TOWN OF COLLINGWOOD

COLLINGWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

May 22, 2025, 8:30 a.m.

FreeSchools World Literacy Community Room and by Videoconference
Collingwood Public Library, First Floor, 55 Ste. Marie Street, Collingwood

Members Present: Mariane McLeod, Chair
 Donna Mansfield, Vice-Chair
 Allison Hunwicks
 Charles Levine
 Greg Bishop
 Steve Perry, Council Appointee

Members Absent: Courtney Squires

Staff Present: Jenny Haines, Administrative Coordinator
 Ashley Kulchyski, Library CEO

Others: Jennifer Perks, Supervisor Community Services
 Amy Arsenio, Coordinator Youth Services

1. **Call to Order**

Chair McLeod called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. provided recognition and acknowledgement of the traditional territory of the Indigenous peoples.

2. **Adoption of the Agenda**

LIB-021-2025

Moved by: Donna Mansfield

Seconded by: Greg Bishop

THAT the content of the Collingwood Public Library Board Agenda for May 22, 2025, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made at this time.

4. **Adoption of Minutes**

LIB-022-2025

Moved by: Charles Levine

Seconded by: Steve Perry

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Collingwood Public Library Board held on March 27, 2025, be adopted as presented and forwarded to Council for receipt at its next regular meeting.

CARRIED

5. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting

None.

6. Deputations

6.1 Consideration to amend Partnership Policy, Southern Georgian Bay Jewish Community, Rashell Feldman

Rashell Feldman, Co-founder and Chair of Southern Georgian Bay Jewish Community (SGBJC) provided the Board with an overview of the SGBJC noting her family history and personal introduction into Judaism.

Rashell Feldman noted that the SGBJC is not a religious specific organization, confirming that the community is not lead by a Rabi and group events do not take place in a place of worship. Rashell Feldman confirmed that the group does not solicit for religious purposes and that anyone is welcome to join as there are members currently who are not Jewish. Rashell Feldman noted that rates of Jewish racial hatred, antisemitism and discrimination are on the rise in Ontario and that it is important for the local Jewish community to feel a sense of belonging in the area.

Rashell Feldman confirmed that since the SGBJC is not a primarily religious organization it is her request that the Collingwood Public Library Board reconsider its Partnership Policy so that it will accept the SGBJC as a qualifying partnership.

Rashell Feldman briefed the Board on 2024 US Data pertaining to the Rise of Antisemitism and statistics regarding Hate Crime in Canada and parallels to other stigmatized groups.

Rashell Feldman quoted the Library's Diversity and Inclusion Policy confirming that the SGBJC is a non-for-profit organization that meets the requirements of the policy; confirmed the partnerships the SGBJC has with neighbouring municipal Libraires; and a petition that has been circulated requesting support in having SGBJC programs at the Collingwood Public Library.

Chair MacLeod thanked Rashell Feldman for her time and opened the floor for questions from the Board. Member Levine declared that he is a member of the SGBJC and left the meeting for the duration of discussion.

Rashell Feldman answered questions and received comments from the Board regarding clarification on what her organization is looking for her in terms of a partnership with the Collingwood Public Library.

Rashell Feldman left the meeting at this time.

7. Reports

7.1 Statistical Report

Member Levine returned to the meeting at this time.

CEO Kulchycki reviewed the Statistical Report for the period ending April 30, 2025 and provided the Board with clarification on statistics pertaining to the role of the Community Care Worker and the County required statistics. CEO Kulchycki answered questions from the Board regarding whether Staff are noticing a difference in patrons coming to the front counter to inquire about social services now that a Community Care Worker is on location; how is the public being made aware that the Library offers technology support services; if there is concern that the program is not being utilized based on the statistics of use; how does the public know that the Library has a Community Care Worker on site; and clarification on what 'referral from another organization' means and the data collected.

Board members discussed the role of the Community Care Worker and CEO Kulchycki answered questions regarding her workspace and privacy; if there are people she is unable to accommodate or assist due to her full workload and schedule; and if consideration is being made to have another social services staff member dedicated to assisting her.

Vice-Chair Mansfield left the meeting for 5 minutes during the Statistical Report discussion and returned to the meeting at this time.

7.2 Financial Report

CEO Kulchycki provided the Board with an overview of the Capital Budget and the Operating Financial Report. CEO Kulchycki answered questions from the Board regarding the reason the Library has a capital budget when the Town has control of the budget and the capital works.

7.3 Leadership Team Report

CEO Kulchycki provided the Board with an overview of the Leadership Team Report dated May 15, 2025 noting that the Canada Post strike will impact on Inter-Library Loan services confirming that messaging will go out via social media and on the website regarding the service impact.

7.4 Approval of Reports

LIB-023-2025

Moved by: Charles Levine

Seconded by: Donna Mansfield

THAT the Collingwood Public Library Board approve the following reports as presented:

- Statistical Report
- Capital Financial Report
- Operating Financial Report
- Leadership Team Report

CARRIED

8. New Business

8.1 Policy review – Safety, Security, and Emergencies

LIB-024-2025

Moved by: Steve Perry

Seconded by: Allison Hunwicks

THAT the Collingwood Public Library Board approve the above policies as presented:

- Policy Number OP-02 – Safety, Security, and Emergencies

CARRIED

8.2 Library Culture

CEO Kulchycki welcomed Supervisor Jennifer Perks and Supervisor Amy Arsenio who joined the meeting at this time. Board members discussed Staff Report #2025-03 entitled Library Culture.

Board members discussed the differences between the Collingwood Public Library and large city Libraries; the perception of the Library as a safe space in Collingwood; and the shift in Library Culture to meet the unique needs of its users.

Staff noted the importance of key messaging to the public to assist in helping patrons understand the change of the culture of the Library and ensure the community is aware of the reality of the Collingwood Public Library and all that it can offer members of the public.

Staff answered questions from the Board regarding their role when a patron is found sleeping in the Library; the difference between an unresponsive person and someone who is sleeping; whether Staff are

keeping track of the number of patrons using the Library to sleep during operating hours; if Staff are familiar with the patrons who sleep at the Library; and if they have concerns about patrons who regularly sleep in the Library. Staff also addressed questions about whether they feel that patrons who nap in the Library are adversely impacting other patrons; if there are concerns that patrons are unable to use seating, desks, or computers because others are resting in the facility; and whether patrons who have expressed concern about people sleeping in the Library noted specific reasons for their concern.

CEO Kulchycki noted that consideration is being made to raise awareness to the number of unhoused people in the community during an art exhibit which features photographs of unhoused people. Staff have discussed bringing in a speaker or panel to offer a session on understanding the complexity of serving vulnerable community members.

Board members discussed the municipal by-law that prohibits smoking within nine meters of the building and Staff answered questions regarding enforcement; money spent on cleaning and gardening; if the Muskoka chairs at the front the building are more than nine meters from the entrance doors; and clarification that the smell of smoke is not always cigarette smoke but could also be from campfire wood burning.

CEO Kulchycki confirmed that the report was presented to the Board for their information.

Supervisor Jennifer Perks and Supervisor Amy Arsenio left the meeting at this time.

9. In-Camera

9.1 Proceed In-Camera

LIB-025-2025

Moved by: Steve Perry

Seconded by: Charles Levine

THAT the Collingwood Public Library Board proceeds in-camera in order to address a matter pertaining to:

personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; (a)

Items for discussion: a) Approval of February and March 2025 Collingwood Public Library Board in-camera minutes

CARRIED

9.2 Approval of February and March 2025 Collingwood Public Library Board in-camera minutes

9.3 Rise from In-Camera

LIB-028-2025

Moved by: Steve Perry

Seconded by: Greg Bishop

THAT the Collingwood Public Library Board rise from in-camera and return to public session.

CARRIED

10. Other Business

CEO Kulchycki answered questions from the Board regarding the Friends of the Library program.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Collingwood Public Library Board will take place on June 26, 2025, commencing at 8:30 a.m.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Member Levine

THAT the Collingwood Public Library Board meeting be hereby adjourned at 9:47 a.m. **CARRIED.**

Chair