RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Board Present:
Denise Hui, Chair
Jennifer Gervès-Keen, Vice Chair
Councillor Michael Wolfe
Gina Mahil
Sherine Merhi
Jacqueline Morrison
Angeline Singh

Susan Walters, Chief Librarian and Secretary to the Board

Regrets: Bryan Tisdall and Angelica Victoria

Staff Present:
Anne Bechard
Charles Leung
Kevin Samara
Mark Dawson
Shaneena Rahman

Guests:
None

1. **Call to Order and Welcome**
The meeting was called to order at 5:40pm. The welcome was provided by G. Mahil.

2. **Approval of Agenda**
MOVED: THAT the agenda be approved as presented.
J. Gervès-Keen/S. Merhi.............CARRIED

3. **Business Section**
(a) Approval of Meeting Minutes
MOVED: THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of March 25, 2026, be approved.
A. Singh/S. Merhi.............CARRIED

(b) Business Arising
None.

(c) Correspondence
Correspondence was received on April 24, 2026, regarding the Children and Family Services program room. The Manager of Finance & Facilities responded, sharing the library's cleaning protocols.

4. **Presentations**
S. Chie presented on the Community Services Pop-Ups and Connectors programs, highlighting the progression, goals, outcomes and impact. Trustees also had the opportunity to hear from one of the Connectors, Laina, on what this position means to them and the community they serve.

5. **Community**
(a) Councillor's Report
Councillor Wolfe shared updates regarding various recent events as well as highlights from Council and Committee meetings, noting that the Library's Audited Financial Statements will be presented at the May 4 Finance Committee meeting.

Councillor Wolfe also shared that he will join the Kaiwo Maru crew in repositioning the tall ship for this weekend's event in Steveston.

(b) Friends of the Library (FOL) Report
On behalf of B. Walker, S. Walters shared that the FOL Bookstore continues to be successful and the friends will be shifting to be open 10am-8pm on Wednesdays to increase access for community.

6. Board – Items for Decision and/or Discussion

(a) 2026 Q1 Financial Update
No questions.

(b) Strategic Plan 2024-2028: 2026 Q1 Progress Report
S. Walters provided an update on strategic plan progress which includes the completion of two priorities: Developing the library's brand to reflect Richmond's growing and diverse community (Memo #9) and Improving access to RPL's technology across library locations (Memo #14). The Board noted appreciation for the key speaking points and a willingness to support digital services partners.

(c) Canadian Urban Libraries Council: Bill 28 Open Letter to Minister Williams
S. Walters shared the ask from CULC to support Alberta libraries and provided a summary of action taken by other public libraries across Canada. The board noted their unanimous support and passed the following motion.

MOVED: THAT the Richmond Public Library Board endorse the position of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council in opposing changes proposed to Alberta's Libraries Act in Bill 28, the Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026, and that the Library Board reaffirm its commitment to intellectual freedom, customer privacy, equitable access to information, and the principles of local governance of public libraries, consistent with the BC Library Act.

AND THAT the Board direct the Chief Librarian to communicate this resolution to the Canadian Urban Libraries Council.

J. Gervès-Keen/A. Singh.......CARRIED

7. Standing Items

(a) Roundtable and Advocacy Discussion
Trustees noted that over the past month, the library board has been represented at the Writer In Residence launch, participated in AI training, and look forward to acting as adjudicators at the Heritage Fair and upcoming learning on mis/dis-information and reconciliation.

i. Trustee Professional Development Goals
J. Gervès-Keen asked trustees to share their professional development goals.

(b) Steveston Community Centre and Library
S. Rahman provided an operational update.

(c) InterLINK Report
G. Mahil shared that the InterLINK Board is looking for library representation on the 9-person executive committee, noting they need three trustees for each library size category – small, medium and large. S. Walters will follow up with the Executive Director.

(d) Finance Committee
See 6.0a.

(e) Advocacy/Fund Development Committee
J. Morrison noted that the committee has drafted a strategy and letter to past donors, as well as made changes to the donation website. The intent is to send out the letter as part of the 50^{th} Anniversary campaign, Where Stories Gather.

(f) Governance Committee
None.

8. Chief Librarian's Report

S. Walters provided an update on the CULC Special Annual General Meeting held in Calgary April 26-28. The primary focus was a facilitated strategic planning workshop to determine the key priorities that will guide CULC's work for the next 3-5 years. The meeting also included a business meeting component and presentation of the audited financial statements, a cross-country update from 51 libraries (record number of attendees), a Futures Lab update on the AI Toolkit, tours of the Central Library, and the CULC CEOs and PLL group came together for a keynote presentation – *Sanctuaries of Truth* – on the role of public libraries and AI from Dr. Soroush Sabbaghan.

9. Operations

(a) Library Operations Highlights Report
The board noted appreciation for the look and feel of the newly branded website which incorporates enhancements based on customer feedback.

10. Items Included for Information

There were no questions on the Q1 Operational Statistics but it was noted that Children and Family Services staff are going to Strong Start programs to promote library membership and reach new families.

Trustees were reminded of two upcoming events. D. Hui and B. Tisdall will have adjudicating responsibilities at the Heritage Fair on May 8 and all trustees are welcome to pop by to check out student projects.

The Board is invited to RPL's 50^{th} Anniversary Celebration on May 13 and D. Hui will act as emcee. The mayor will be kicking off 6 weeks of storytelling and invitations are also being sent to Council, the FOL, past trustees and staff, community partners and more. M. Dawson will share the email invitation for trustees to share with their networks.

11. Other Business

None.

Next Meeting
The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for **May 27, 2026, 5:30pm.**

Adjournment
There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

CHAIR____________________________________

CHIEF LIBRARIAN____________________________________