

B.1 Gil Lian

Re: Libraries as a Community Glue

Gil Lian spoke regarding the importance of libraries as a community glue. Ms. Lian spoke regarding mental health and wellbeing and stressed the importance of small interactions, noting that small interactions occur at the library. Ms. Lian noted that she moved to this area in 1987 and at one point lived across from the library. Ms. Lian noted that she now lives in Banks, which is 20 minutes to Thornbury, and 15 minutes to Collingwood. Ms. Lian noted that she is happy to pay for library service in Collingwood.

Ms. Lian noted that she switched from the Collingwood Library to L.E. Shore Memorial Library when it was built in Thornbury, and she gave up her Collingwood Library card at that time. Ms. Lian noted that the L.E. Shore Memorial Library had moms and tots events at the library, and events were held at the Library as well. Ms. Lian noted that she had small interactions in the library over the years. Ms. Lian noted that she is now a member at the Meaford Library.

Ms. Lian noted that libraries should respect kids and allow them to drop in when they wish.

B.2 Georgie Donais

Re: Barriers to Access

Georgie Donais spoke regarding the recent requirement that patrons to the L.E. Shore Memorial Library must present their library card to withdraw materials from the library. Ms. Donais noted that her 12 year old daughter was recently asked for her library card when trying to withdraw a book from the library. Ms. Donais noted that she and her daughter are offended by this, further noting that her daughter signed out many books last year. Ms. Donais noted that the new requirement to produce a library card when withdrawing materials from the library is offensive and turns people away from the library. Ms. Donais questioned if this new requirement is trying to fix a problem, further noting that children will no longer feel comfortable signing out books from the library. Ms. Donais noted that there should be goodwill toward library visitors, and that the library should break down barriers for visitors to the library.

Library CEO Terri Pope spoke noting the reason for library cards is for enforcement, further noting this has always been the policy. Terri noted that there are new staff at the library and with the addition of the second library location, the computer tracks the status of library materials from the library cards. Terri noted that she is working with the school for a solution, further noting that self-checkout is coming as well.

Chair McKean then spoke questioning if the library card is tracking usage and materials signed out, Terri spoke in response noting that yes, a record is being created for the library user, as well as for other services. Terri noted that using the library card is an easy process that allows the library to track what items are going out, further noting there are no barriers as the library staff assist with the transaction.

Councillor Gamble spoke noting that Canada Post employs a similar process, in that a mailbox key must be provided to receive your mail at the post office.

Ms. Donais noted that it is difficult for children to carry cards, and requested that the Library Board consider the effects of this policy.

B.3 Christine Sivell
Re: Library Restructuring

Christine spoke noting she has been a member of the committee for 20 years and noted the Library recently received a 98% ranking on the satisfaction survey. Ms. Sivell spoke regarding the Library Strategic Plan and noted that the legacy of the library is in jeopardy. Ms. Sivell noted that libraries build communities and are champions of youth. Ms. Sivell noted that she has taught in many communities and had much involvement in youth, and noted the connection with adults and the availability of resources is necessary. Ms. Sivell noted that LE Shore provided the connection and resources to each child and filled the community's needs. Ms. Sivell noted that the internet is important and is available at the library, further noting that not all residents have access to the internet. Ms. Sivell spoke regarding the access to arts through the library and noted that the library is a key aspect of social capital. Ms. Sivell noted that the recent restructuring provided a lack of regard for social networks. Ms. Sivell noted that Statistics Canada measures social capital. Ms. Sivell noted that children engaged in public libraries do better, further noting that this community has exceptional social capital.

Ms. Sivell spoke regarding the children's programming prior to the restructuring, further noting that registered programs are important. Ms. Sivell noted that the library has interaction with the primary, junior and intermediate students of the Beaver Valley Community School. Ms. Sivell spoke regarding the success of the parking lot party, Youth Roots Council, BVO Partnership, crafts, tutors and authors that drop in.

Ms. Sivell noted that the LE Shore Memorial Library is not a generic library, further noting that she would expect the children's programming to be created by a full time librarian. Ms. Sivell requested that the Board create a committee to ensure there is children's programming, and further requested that the Library Board meetings be moved to the evening.

B.4 Patrick Delaney
Re: Update from VOCAL Group, Review of the 2015-2018 Library Board Strategic Action Plan

Mike D'Abramo spoke on behalf of Patrick Delaney, noting it has been two months since the library restructuring. Mr. D'Abramo noted that correspondences, deputation requests and petitions have been sent to the Library Board that have not been answered. Mr. D'Abramo noted that this is a democratic society and that public officials are to listen, further noting that the Board should have listened to the community before the restructuring was done. Mr. D'Abramo noted that there is 22 months remaining in the current term of the Library Board.

Mr. D'Abramo spoke regarding the 2014 Library Strategic Plan that provides the goals and objectives of the library to the year 2018. Mr. D'Abramo noted that the restructuring and acquisition of the Depot was not included in the Library Strategic Plan.

Mr. D'Abramo noted that the CEO of the Board was to complete public consultation with respect to the library redevelopment in 2016.

Mr. D'Abramo questioned if anyone reads the Strategic Plan, further noting the Strategic Plan is not being followed. Mr. D'Abramo noted that the Collingwood Librarian works actively on the library floor and requests public consultation. Mr. D'Abramo asked that the Library Board meetings be held in the evening to allow the public the opportunity to attend.

Mr. D'Abramo spoke regarding opinions of the VOCAL group in response to the restructuring, further referencing the 98% satisfaction on the recent citizen satisfaction survey.

C. Reports

C.1 CEO Report dated May, 2016

Moved by: Maurice Pepper Seconded by: Angela Weldon

THAT The Blue Mountains Public Library Board receives the CEO Report dated May 2016, Carried.

C.2 Library Budget Variance Reports

Moved by: R.J Gamble Seconded by: Lloyd Brown

THAT The Blue Mountains Public Library Board receives the Library Budget Variance Reports for the three months ending March 31, 2016 for information purposes, Carried.

C.3 Health & Safety Report dated April, 2016

Moved by: Maurice Pepper Seconded by: Lloyd Brown

THAT The Blue Mountains Public Library Board receives the Health & Safety Report dated April 2016 for information purposes, Carried.

C.4 Action Log dated April, 2016

Moved by: Angela Weldon Seconded by: LeJune Pier

THAT The Blue Mountains Public Library Board receives the Action Log dated April 2016 for information purposes, Carried.

D. Correspondence

- D.1 Helen Forrest, Chair, Arts Advisory Council Re: Library Restructuring
- D.2 Margaret Joan Gaudet, Re: Library Restructuring
- D.3 Jacqueline Stewart Re: Resignation from Arts Advisory Council
- D.4 Petitions received regarding restructuring
(Petitions in the Clerk's Office)
- D.5 Addition to the Agenda: Doris Heffron Re: Library Restructuring

Moved by: Lloyd Brown Seconded by: John Milne

THAT The Blue Mountains Public Library Board receive the correspondences and petitions noted in Agenda items D.1 to D.5 and thanked the authors for their comments, Carried.

E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Round Table

Angela Weldon spoke noting that she attended the Library Trustee Meeting in Grand Valley, and that this meeting is held twice per year. Angela noted most Library Board members were present at the meeting. Angela noted that the discussion items included accessibility, space and expansion needs that strain library services. Angela noted that the Southern Ontario Library Service ("SOLS") representative is now from Meaford. Angela noted that FCM continues to raise awareness of culture hubs and ebooks.

Angela noted that the next meeting is November 5 in Southgate.

E.2 Additions to Agenda

E.2.1 Library Board Member John Milne provided the following notice of motion. This notice of motion will be included on the June 16, 2016 Library Board Agenda for consideration by the Board.

THAT The Blue Mountains Library Board form a liaison committee for the purpose of maintaining an ongoing dialogue with interested members of the community to encourage and discuss ideas around the provision of Library and Museum Services in the Town of The Blue Mountains.

I. Adjournment

Moved by: Michael Martin

Seconded by: Lloyd Brown

THAT this Library Board does now adjourn at 5:10 p.m. to meet again June 16, 2016 2:00 p.m., Town Hall, Council Chamber, or at the call of the Chair, Carried.

Chair John McKean

Corrina Giles, Interim Secretary