



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

April 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., Program Room, Main Library

1. Call to Order and Welcome.

I.Findlay, acting as M.C., called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. He reminded them, that although all are welcome, only members can vote on the issues. He noted that he had received regrets from James Gordon, Cam Guthrie, Dominique O'Rourke, and that Rodrigo Goller and Cathy MacLean would be arriving late.

2. Explanation of how to view AGM Documents.

I.Findlay explained that, in an effort to reduce the amount of paper used for this meeting, alternative methods are being employed. The various documents can be found on the website, an email blast contained a link to the documents, a PowerPoint presentation will follow the agenda and a QR code to the documents is supplied. Additionally, a few paper packages of documents are available upon request.

3. Presentation and Approval of the Agenda.

Motion: that the Agenda be adopted as presented. C.Stewart/J.Hall Carried.

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest.

I.Findlay asked those present to declare if they have a pecuniary interest in the FGPL and the meeting proceedings. The response was in the negative.

5. Presentation and Approval of the Minutes of the AGM of April 24, 2019.

Motion: that the Minutes off the April 24, 2019, meeting be accepted as printed. J.Shute/N.Ryan Carried.

6. Business arising from the 2019 Minutes, not listed on the Agenda. None

7. Chairperson's Report.

V. Gillham, Chair, presented her report and noted the following:

- the death of Alan Pickersgill, February 3, 2021. Memorial donations of \$3,500 are being held for a legacy project in the new central library,
- Liz Macrae died March 25, 2023,
- Executive resignations were received from Elaine Lilley (Treasurer), Bryan Neath (Vice-Chair), Anne MacKay (Library Board Liaison), and Mei Fei Elrick (Member-at-Large),

- thanks were extended to the exiting Executive members, I.Findlay, M.Goodwin, N.Ryan, P.Young and M.Mulholland and to the Ex-officio members, S.Kraft, L.Cunningham, L.Kearns, G.Kearns and Lynn Allen (for her work on the By-Laws),
- thanks were also extended to the Book Sale Core Steering Committee, sub - committees and over 200 volunteers for their tremendous effort on the 2022 Book Sale. Applause.

The Chair announced two major events..... Resulting in more applause:

- the 15th Book Sale will take place on September 20-24, 2023, at the Woods facility at 69 Huron Street (same location as 2022),
- the FGPL will donate \$1 million to the library major fundraiser for the new library. This will be the largest early donation and the seed money to launch the library's campaign.

8. Correspondence. None

9. Treasurer's Report.

M.Goodwin, Acting-Treasurer, presented three documents:

The Year-End 2023 Financial Statement. The FGPL finished the year with a modest increase in assets of approximately \$19,000, despite a net revenue of \$56,000 from the 2022 Book Sale. This was due to a drop of \$35,000 in investments. The Book Sale revenues for 2022 was not invested with the Guelph Community Foundation, but temporarily placed in a high yielding savings account.

Motion: that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented:

M.Goodwin/S.McKinnie Carried

Auditors' Report. The Acting-Treasurer confirmed that the Audit Report is signed by auditors, E.Lilley and J.Holman, and reminded the members that the financial records of the FGPL are open and available upon requested.

2023-24 FGPL Budget. The Acting-Treasurer commented that the members who accessed the documents before the meeting would have noted two important numbers and a drastic drop in our assets: (1) the Book Sale revenue indicates that there will be a 2023 Book Sale. Yes, confirmed a few days ago and, (2) the other number of great importance is the expense of \$1 million. This is the year that all the hard work of fundraising will see the FGPL make a gift of \$1 million to the Guelph Public Library's major fundraiser for the new central library. After having made a number of gifts, the FGPL will be expected to close 2023-24 with over \$100,00 in asset.

Motion: that the 2023-24 Proposed Budget be accepted as presented.

M.Goodwin/M.Mulholland Carried

10. Book Sale Report.

M. Goodwin, Chair/Coordinator of the Book Sale Core Steering Committee outlined the following highlights of a larger report:

- there is often confusion about 'The Library' book sale. Not so, it's 'The Friends' book sale,

- over time the FGPL has made an inaugural gift of \$10,000 the Library Endowment Fund, outfitted a new bookmobile, gifted library related art by Dean Palmer, supplied charging stations, bought new sound systems, matched funds for grant application, etc., etc.,
- after many years of outstanding, dedicated leadership of efficiency, knowledge and commitment, Virginia Gillham has stepped down as Chair of the book sale. She has guided this committee from revenues of \$10,000 to \$127,000 annually. We, the Book Sale Committee, thank her for 14 book sales over 17 years. Wow!
- a venue for the 2022 sale was not on the horizon and the prospect of a third year without a sale was a real possibility. It only happened because of a decision to accept space about 1/3 of the size of our usual venue. We got a late start but the committee dug in and made it work. The main message for the 1022 book sale was 'We Are Back',
- there was a drop in book sale shoppers, items for sale and revenue. We don't believe that this reduction reflected a lack of interest, but the fear that the small space would not sustain the old-style book sale, the committee reluctantly accepted fewer donations and drastically cut advertising.

The Book Club Coordinator took a minute to talk about volunteers. While other organizations struggle to recruit and retain their volunteers, the book sale does not have this concern at the moment. A word of caution, though, we are starting to lose our older volunteers and we can only hope that the book sale can attract new and younger volunteers. Since no motion is needed for a committee report, M. Goodwin asked for a round of applause for our volunteers.

11. Library Report

S. Kraft, Library CEO, reminded those in attendance that this was National Volunteers Week, resulting in another round of applause. He shared that this has been the most successful year for the library with many (807,500 visitors) returning to library services after the pandemic hiatus. Mr. Kraft passed a library hand-out to those in attendance.

12. Governance Committee Report: Amendments to the Constitution.

The new Governance Committee consisting of Ian Findlay, May Goodwin and Lynn Allen spent considerable time studying, researching and changing the old Constitution into new By-Laws. I. Findlay explaining these changes in a summary, namely:

- the document now referred to as 'By-Laws' to align with Ontario Library Association guidelines,
- membership dues to remain the same,
- new term limits for Executive members and Officers: three (3) year term with a maximum of three (3) terms for a total of nine years of service,
- Executive members to remain elected by the Friends membership,
- clarification that Officers be elected by the Executive following the AGM,
- Treasurer to prepare an annual Budget for approval by the membership at the AGM,
- Trustees to be replaced by a Finance Committee appointed by the Executive,
- Task Groups now embedded with Special Committees

Given the opportunity, and no questions being asked, I. Findlay made the
Motion: to accept the changes to the Old Constitution and accept the new By-Laws.

B. McKinnie/M. Bethune Carried

13. Nominating Committee Report.

As Chair of the Nominating Committee, I. Findlay explained that because of retirements, a number of Executive members are needed. In keeping with the newly adopted By-Laws, five current Executive members are seeking re-election and five new nominees are seeking a first term.

14. Election of the Executive for 2023-26

I. Findlay presented the slate of prospective Executive members. They are:

- current members: Ian Findlay, May Goodwin, Mary Mulholland, Nancy Ryan and Paul Young.
- seeking a first term: James Gordon, Linda Kearns, Anne MacKay, Tara Signorelli and Kathy MacLean.

I. Findlay asked for nominations from the floor and not having received any, declared the slate acclaimed.

Motion: to elect all ten named individuals to the Executive for a period of three years.

V. Gillham/Paul Young Carried.

15. Presentation of Honorary Life Members

S. Kraft presented Honorary Life-Time Memberships to two retiring members of the Executive. One to Mei Fei Elrick (in her absence) for long and valuable service, and the other to Virginia Gillham for outstanding, dedicated leadership of the FGPL and the Book Sale over a period of 14 years and for having reached the \$1 million fundraising goal. Both recipients were thanked and honoured.

16. Other Business. I. Findlay reiterated, with thanks, for those present, that Virginia Gillham is stepping down from the Chair and membership of the FGPL.

17. Motion to Adjourn

M. Mulholland

Steve Kraft (Library CEO) Introduced the Guest Speaker.

Duncan Bates is a Senior Associate with Diamond Schmitt Architects and is the design lead for the new Central Library project. He is also a long-time resident of Guelph.

With the help of floorplans, and slide, Mr. Bates gave those present a tour of three library floors sitting above two parking levels. The construction of the 83,000 sq. ft. facility will get started in late summer of 2023 with expected completion and ready for use in 2027.