



Friends of the Guelph Public Library Annual General Meeting

Minutes, April 24, 2024 – 7 pm Main Library, Program Room

Present: Ian Findlay (Chair), May Goodwin (Treasurer), Tara Signorelli (Secretary), Lisa Cunningham (Library Liaison), Kathy MacLean, James Gordon, Linda Kearns, Nancy Ryan, Dan Atkins (Acting Library CEO), Paul Young, Anne MacKay

Regrets: Mary Mulholland, Danny Williamson (Library Board Liaison)

Recorder: Tara Signorelli

7:11 p.m. Call to Order

I.Findlay

1. Explanation of how to view AGM documents (paperless)

I.Findlay explained that all documents were available online and would be projected on screen to eliminate the need for paper copies.

2. Motion to approve the Agenda

A.MacKay/L.Allen

Carried

Business arising not listed elsewhere on the agenda – none

3. Executive Members' Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

I.Findlay requested that those present respond to the Members' Declaration.

All responded in the affirmative.

4. Motion to accept the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2023

T.Signorelli/N.Ryan Carried

5. Business arising from the 2023 Minutes, not listed on the agenda

none

6. Chair's Report

I.Findlay

I.Findlay reported on the accomplishments from the previous year. These included the ground-breaking for the new main library in June 2023, followed in July by the FGPL receiving the community builders award from Guelph Today. In September the FGPL presented a cheque for \$1 million to the GPL at 69 Huron St the site of the Book Sale the same month. In the fall the FGPL organized 2 speakers for the "Open Minds" events, David Sax and Robert Sawyer, which was well received. In the spring another 3 speakers have been scheduled (Sharon Hampson, Kevin Callan and Tom Wilson). The Friends has also committed to helping fund the "Born to Read" program, a collaboration between the FGPL, the GPL and the Guelph General Hospital, that provides every baby born in Guelph a kit with a library card and reading materials.

Farewells to a few Friends executive and ex-officio members, Paul Young, Mary Mulholland, Anne MacKay and Steve Kraft. Thanks to them for their time and dedication. Thanks were also given to the remaining executive members, to Lynn Allen



for assistance with governance and policy documentation, and to all members and volunteers for their time.

7. Correspondence

A letter of thanks received from the Guelph Public Library, for the \$1 million gift was circulated to all attendees.

8. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer confirms that the Friends of the Guelph Public Library is in full compliance with all statutory requirements/remittances as of March 31st, 2024.

i. Motion to receive the Year-end Financial Statement for the year 2023/24

M.Goodwin/J.Chevalier carried

Items highlighted included the effective closing of the Guelph Community Foundation account, the dramatic reduction in assets after the \$1 million gift, and book sale revenue for 2023 was \$64,384.

ii. Motion to approve the Auditor's Report

M.Goodwin /L.Allen carried

Thanks were given to Elaine Lily and John Holman for completing this task.

iii. Motion to approve the 2004-25 Budget

M.Goodwin/K.MacLean carried

Items of note: Ongoing support of the Born to Read Program and funding for the GPL to purchase Botley Coding Robots, as well as \$7,000 for the Speaker's Series and provisions for a book sale are included.

9. 2023 Book Sale Report

M.Goodwin

The book sale was held with the assistance of about 230 volunteers, who because of the earlier date gave up a good portion of their summer to run the sale. The diversion of books from landfill was increased with more books going to charity before and after the sale. The smaller size of the sale site impacted the revenue (relative to pre-pandemic sales).

10. 2024 Book Sale Site Search Committee Report

I.Findlay

Despite good media response and many leads and conversations, there has been no suitable space found yet for a fall sale. The book sale committee is looking at alternate ways to deliver the sale, including reducing altering the size or changing the time. The Book Sale Committee has proposed a deadline of May 31 to find a space, with a firm deadline of June 30th, for committing to a space, at which time if no space has been found there will be no sale in Fall 2024. The Book Sale Committee voted on a few restructuring and policy type decisions at their meeting March 20th, a full report to be made available by the next meeting.



11. Finance Committee Report

I.Findlay

Finance Expert was consulted and made the following suggestions for consideration by the new executive; cashable GIC's and assembly of a policy framework.

12. Governance Committee Report

I.Findlay

A Code of Conduct (CoC) for the FGPL has been approved by the executive. This includes a Code of Conduct, a Code of Conduct Policy, and an incident reporting form. The reasoning for this new direction was that the organization is maturing, and this is part of good governance. The CoC was drafted using charitable organization best practices and examples and was adapted to fit within the FGPL framework.

Motion for the membership to accept the Code of Conduct

M.Goodwin/A.MacKay **carried**

Strategic planning sessions were held in January to initiate the renewal process for the organization, as we have reached several of our key goals (ground-breaking on the new main library and \$1 million gift). It was determined that reaching out to the membership for guidance would be a good way to determine future direction. A 10-question survey was sent out to the membership. The main findings were that the membership is happy with what we have accomplished, wants us to keep fundraising and advocating for the library and is willing to spread the word about our organization to friends.

13. Nominating Committee Report

I.Findlay

As there have been 3 retirements from the executive, the committee was tasked with finding 3 suitable replacement nominees. The 3 nominees recommended for consideration are Lynn Allen, Joanne Grodzinski and Lorna Rourke. L.Allen and J.Grodzinski were in attendance and L.Rourke was unable to attend.

14. Election of New Executive Members

Bios for the 3 nominees were shared with those present. The committee also opened the floor to nominations. No other nominations were received.

Motion to accept nominees L.Allen, J.Grodzinski and L.Rourke to the executive

B.McKinnie/A.MacKay **carried**

15. Presentation of Honorary Lifetime Members

J.Gordon

In recognition of tireless efforts to advance the goals of the Friends of the Guelph Public Library, 2 honorary lifetime memberships were given to Mary Mulholland (who was not present to receive the honour) and Steve Kraft. Thanks to them for their service.

16. Other Business

None

17. Motion to adjourn at 7:49 pm

M.Goodwin