The GVPL Board recognizes and acknowledges the traditional territory of the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations on which the Central Branch is located and Board Meetings take place.

Mission Statement
We build community and support literacy and lifelong learning by providing free access to information, space, tools and expertise.
1. Call to order

2. Indigenous Acknowledgement

3. Chair’s Remarks

4. Consent Agenda
   4.1 Approval of Agenda
   4.2 Approval of Minutes – May 26, 2020 – Attachment 4.2

Motion to Approve

5. Officers reports
   5.1 Chair Report – Attachment 5.1
   5.2 CEO Report

For Information

6. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

7. Committee Reports
   7.1 Planning and Policy Committee Meeting June 2, 2020 – Oral Report
   7.1.1 Strategic Planning

For Information

8. New Business
   8.1 GVPL Service Restoration Plan Update
   8.2 BC Summer Reading Club 2020 – Staff Presentation

For Information

9. Board Liaison Updates
   9.1 Friends of the Library
   9.2 BCLTA
   9.3 Islandlink Library Federation

10. In-Camera Meeting

11. Next Meeting Date
    September 29, 2020 12:00pm – 1:00pm

12. Adjournment
An electronic meeting of the Greater Victoria Public Library Board was held on the above date. The following individuals were in attendance:

**Board Members:**
- Trustee A. Appleton
- Trustee D. Begoray
- Trustee M. Boyd
- Trustee T. Chung
- Trustee J. Davis
- Trustee E. Glover (12:34)
- Trustee K. Harper
- Trustee A. Holthuis
- Trustee D. Kobayashi
- Trustee S. Laidlaw
- Trustee G. Lemon
- Trustee J. Loveday
- Trustee A. MacKinnon
- Trustee K. Roessingh
- Trustee D. Seaton
- Trustee B. Thompson
- Trustee J. Vermeulen

**Regrets:**
- Trustee M. Sahlstrom
- Trustee K. Santini

**Staff:**
- M. Sawa, CEO/Secretary
- P. McKinnon, Director Finance and Facilities
- D. Main, Director People and Culture
- J. Windecker, Director Library Services, Innovation and Delivery
- D. Wood, Director Library Services, Planning and Engagement
- K. Marshall, Recording Secretary
- F. Ferreira CUPE 410 President

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   
   Trustee Begoray called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

2. **INDIGENOUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**
   
   Trustee Begoray provided the Indigenous acknowledgement.

3. **CHAIR’S REMARKS**
   
   Trustee Begoray welcomed F. Ferreira, CUPE 410 Union President.
4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Trustee Roessingh, Seconded by Trustee Kobayashi

THAT the May 26, 2020 consent agenda be approved

MOTION CARRIED

5. OFFICERS REPORTS

5.1 Chair Report

Trustee Begoray provided the chair report. Trustee Begoray and M. Sawa, CEO attended a webinar delivered by BCLTA on library decision making in the time of COVID-19.

The finance committee met to review the 2019 year-end audit. Trustee Begoray thanked trustees Boyd and Harper for their leadership and chairing of the committee.

The next planning and policy committee meeting is June 2, 2020.

5.2 CEO Report

M. Sawa, provided the CEO report. The gvpl.ca home page has been updated to promote the various electronic collections and resources available.

A restart plan is being developed in accordance with WorkSafe BC requirements. GVPL is working with member municipalities to ensure alignment with their requirements.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

None

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Finance Committee Meeting May 5, 2020

Trustee Boyd provided the finance committee meeting report. A finance committee meeting was held on May 5, 2020. KPMG attended to provide the financial audit and year-end report.

7.1.1 Draft Audited Financial Statement – Fiscal 2019


Key events impacting the financial statement were:

- Flooding at the Saanich Centennial branch
- Staffing
- Implementation of standardized schedules

Moved by Trustee Seaton, Seconded by Trustee Laidlaw

THAT the Draft Audited Financial Statement – Fiscal 2019 be approved

MOTION CARRIED
7.1.2 Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) – Fiscal 2019

P. McKinnon, Director of Finance and Facilities provided an explanation of the Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) – Fiscal 2019. The SOFI contains the same information as the financial statement with additional schedules.

Moved by Trustee Kobayashi, Seconded by Trustee Roessingh

| THAT the Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) – Fiscal 2019 be approved | MOTION CARRIED |

8. NEW BUSINESS

None

9. BOARD LIAISON UPDATES

9.1 Friends of the Library Update

D. Wood, Director of Library Services, Planning and Engagement provided the Friends of the Library (FOL) update. FOL continues to stay connected to GVPL through teleconferences and email communication. D. Wood acknowledged the contributions of FOL and highlighted their involvement in the new website launch, BC SRC and the Indigenous Reads collections.

9.2 British Columbia Library Trustee Association (BCLTA) Update

Trustee Begoray attended an online BCLTA forum discussing challenges libraries are facing across the province.

Trustee Glover provided information on Zoom workshops hosted by BCLTA. More information can be found at bclta.ca/workshops.

9.3 IslandLink Federation

Trustee Laidlaw provided the IslandLink Federation report. As a result of COVID-19 impacts on library service delivery, IslandLink adjusted priorities to focus on reallocating funds to digital resource support.

10. IN-CAMERA MEETING

Moved by Trustee Davis, Seconded by Trustee Roessingh

| THAT the Board move in-camera | MOTION CARRIED |

11. NEXT MEETING DATE

June 23, 2020 at 12:00pm – 1:00pm
12. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Roessingh, Seconded by Trustee Laidlaw

THAT the regular meeting of the Board adjourn

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned 12:52 p.m.
Chair’s Report

June 2020

Deborah Begoray

“We have to talk about liberating minds.” Angela Davis, The Black Power Mixtape 1967–1975

“Change your mind!” GVPL

As I write this report, it is Juneteenth. Republicans are already queuing for a Trump rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The COVID-19 pandemic case numbers dwindle here but grows there. Health workers are being investigated for racist behaviours in some BC hospitals. And in Wiltshire, the sun will soon rise tomorrow over Stonehenge for the summer solstice as it has done for thousands of years. How can we make sense of all these events comimngled at one point in this already confusing year?

I believe in libraries, as I know you do, to help everyone to liberate/change their minds, investigate new ideas, dream about possibilities, and challenge outdated notions. As we embark on the exciting restoration of service in our physical branches starting on June 30, I think of the thousands of patrons who have engaged with the platforms in our virtual branch. But I also acknowledge those citizens who are not comfortable with technology, who long for the comfort of a trip to the library and a chat with library staff and want to have a ‘real book’ in their hands. We have received their emails and I have written to council members who are receiving these letters as well. I thank them and all Trustees for steady support.

Over the past month I have been working to consult with Maureen as she engages with her staff to undertake the complex task of opening branches. WorkSafe BC has stringent regulations for everyone’s safety and their directions must, of course, be implemented. The transformation is time consuming and challenging. I could not be more impressed with the remarkable work that has been done under the sterling leadership of Maureen and the directors: Daphne, Debbie, Jennifer, and Paul! More details during our June 23 meeting.

I have also written to the BC Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government to add GVPL’s voice to the province wide request for additional funds for all of BC’s public libraries. We know the importance of public libraries at all times, but now especially as we face the new normal, we will be more vital to community support than ever.

As we all grapple with the times and challenge ourselves to liberate our minds, we will be able to count on the library. Think of those long-ago architects of Stonehenge, drawing on the wisdom of their community to plot the location of those massive stones to produce an astronomical observatory. Libraries are repositories of community wisdom as well and will continue to support the growth of creativity, knowledge and imagination in solving problems of today and those yet to come.

I wish you a summer of relaxation and rejuvenation and look forward to the next board meeting in September.
June 23, 2020

Attention: Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

Regarding 2021 BC Government Budget Priorities

Dear Committee Members,

This submission is on behalf of the Greater Victoria Public Library Board.

We would like to thank the provincial government for the leadership it has shown helping people in British Columbia to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

Every day in our communities, we see first-hand the need for strong public services and social infrastructure. Throughout this crisis, B.C. public libraries have continued to serve communities by assisting those most vulnerable to access government forms and assistance; by providing entertainment and connection to those who feel isolated; and by ensuring equitable access to online resources and learning opportunities that our communities rely on for today and for their future well-being. For all British Columbians, public libraries make life more affordable, improve access to services that people count on, and support the development and rebuilding of strong and sustainable economies.

In times of economic upheaval and uncertainty, public libraries are critically important community infrastructure.

In March 2020, the Province announced a one-time infusion of $3 million for public libraries across B.C. We were heartened by this announcement and these funds. This one-time grant will assist public libraries to implement technology and resources to better support communities during and post COVID-19. And yet, more still needs to be done so that public libraries can meet the increasingly complex demands of their communities, and support the recently released B.C.’s Strategic Plan for Public Library Service.

We have two key requests:

1. We realize there are immense pressures on all levels of government and we appreciate that this year there will be many compelling demands on the 2021 budget. Public libraries are also in need, and have not seen an increase in core provincial funding since 2010. It is imperative that the provincial government demonstrate a commitment in the 2021 budget that addresses this growing gap in provincial funding to public libraries and the need for reliable and sustained annual funding increases.
While the public library community continues to advocate for sustained and reliable annual increases to the provincial operating grant for public libraries, this year, as a demonstrated commitment from the provincial government and in support of our shared strategic goals, we are asking for a one-time $3 million investment in province wide training and professional development for public library staff and boards.

2020 has been an unprecedented period of uncertainty for British Columbians and the 2021 budget will, of necessity, be concerned with rebuilding local economies and the well-being of individuals, families, and communities throughout BC. Public libraries, like other critically important public services, are an integral part of BC community social and economic infrastructure and as such are in need of provincial support and investment.

**Investing in B.C. public libraries is investing in BC communities for everyone.**

Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

Deborah Begoray, Chair  
Greater Victoria Public Library

CC:  
Minister Fleming, Ministry of Education

The BC Public Library Partners:  
Scott Hargrove, Chair, Association of BC Public Library Directors  
Babs Kelly, Executive Director, BC Library Trustees Association  
Annette DeFaveri, Executive Director, BC Library Association  
Kevin Millsip, Executive Director, BC Libraries Cooperative
CEO Report
June 2020

We are just a few short days away from the start of phase one of our service restoration plan. June 30th will mark a new beginning for staff and patrons alike, as we continue to adjust and adapt to the ‘new normal’. Thanks to the exemplary efforts of our staff, GVPL has fulfilled its commitment to a safe and gradual return to services.

As outlined in our service updates on gvpl.ca, holds pick up service will resume at the Central Branch on June 30th, complemented by a limited collection of material that patrons can borrow on the spot. I would like to express my appreciation to the Friends of the Library for their support and generosity in freeing up the Friendshop space to accommodate the design requirements of this new public service point.

We will also begin to receive returned material at the Central Branch as well as at our three branch locations with automated materials handling capabilities: Emily Carr, Langford Heritage and sxʷeŋxʷəŋ təŋəxʷ James Bay. With more than 168,000 items out on loan, the logistics for the safe handling and quarantining of these materials is considerable. The loan periods of all materials that would have been due after the end of February have been extended to August 31st to support the management of new processes required to meet WorkSafe B.C. directives.

In addition, the library vending machine at the Langford Heritage Branch will reopen and be fully stocked with collections that will be frequently refreshed and reflective of community interests. In July, leveraging what we will have learned in the first phase of our plan, we will extend our physical presence to three additional branches: Central Saanich, Juan de Fuca and Saanich Centennial. We also announced that three additional branch locations would follow in August: Bruce Hutchison, sxʷeŋxʷəŋ təŋəxʷ James Bay and Oak Bay. As the restoration of community services continues to evolve, we will continue to collaborate with our municipal partners as new opportunities arise.

While considerable efforts and energies have been focused on the resumption of access to our physical collections, staff continue to expand and enhance our virtual branch – gvpl.ca.

As reported last month, usage of our digital collections and resources has increased significantly since the closure of our physical locations in March. This trend continued through May with month end statistics reflecting a surge of demand. We improved access to digital titles and offered remote access to Ancestry, a popular genealogy resource formerly used inside our branch locations. Ancestry searches increased by more than 600% from February to April, and a further 71% in May.

On June 15th, our social media channels reopened with close to 3,000 people connecting on Facebook alone. First day public responses included comments such as this one:

“I’m very happy to hear this. I miss libraries. But I hope you have all been able to be safe and thank you for the care and extra steps you are taking. You are all amazing.”

Also, on June 15th, BC Summer Reading Club launched its 2020 program. Thanks to special funding from the Ministry of Education, BCLA (British Columbia Library Association) has successfully transformed the annual provincial summer reading club to a new digital platform: https://www.gvpl.ca/src/
As of June 21st, BCLA reported that more than 5,300 children from across the province had already registered and of 63 library systems in the province, GVPL has the fifth highest number of children who have signed up. We look forward to sharing with you details at this board meeting on how the BC SRC will be enhanced to meet local needs.

In addition to GVPL service developments, I would like to report on some of the community partnerships the library is engaged in.

We are supporting the efforts of the Friends of the Library to distribute discarded and donated books to families in need of early literacy materials. Books that were originally designated for the Friends’ book sales will be dispersed to community agencies who can facilitate access to these materials on their behalf.

The South Island Prosperity Partnership (SIPP) has established a number of task force groups to support the regional economic recovery plan. I have had the privilege of participating in SIPP’s Inclusive Economy task force and look forward to reporting on the work that is being accomplished through this and associated efforts.

Our librarians are also working with local partners to build on GVPL’s community inspired library service model to collaborate on local initiatives. As well, work continues in the area of GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums), both locally and nationally. Some of you may be interested in a recent publication by the American Research Libraries (ARL): https://publications.arl.org/rli300/1 The theme of this issue is GLAM Collaboration Opportunities and Challenges. It includes an article written by retired National Librarian and Archivist, Guy Berthiaume which covers the Canadian experience.

Senior staff and I will continue to work with the Finance Committee and the Planning & Policy Committee throughout the summer to support board committee work and meet 2020 priorities that have been adjusted as a result of COVID-19.

As this is the last full board meeting before the summer, I would like to conclude my report by expressing my heartfelt thanks for the support and guidance you – members of the GVPL board – have given to me and staff over these past 100+ days of COVID-19. It would be an understatement to say that libraries are doing things we never thought we would have to do. Your understanding of the challenges facing libraries and our users – and the advice and support that so many of you have provided – has been so greatly appreciated by all of us.

Finally, I want to recognize the outstanding work accomplished by the administration team and all of the staff who have worked so hard to support the development and sustainability of our branch service delivery – virtual and physical. Extensive work has been undertaken to support the safe return to work of staff. Operational and facilities changes to accommodate the new working environment have been substantial. The demands for communication support have been considerable. The expertise and experience of the leadership team, not to mention sheer hard work, have ensured that the airplane we are building in the air together will continue to fly.

Wishing you all a safe and successful summer.