



**Orangeville Public Library Board  
Virtual Special Meeting Minutes  
4:00 pm  
Wednesday, July 22, 2020**

**Members Present**

Mr. Bill Rea, Chair  
Councillor Lisa Post  
Councillor Grant Peters  
Mr. Benn MacDonald  
Mr. Patrick Neely  
Ms. Sheri Marks  
Ms. Shelley Bergant

**Staff Present**

Ms. D. Fraser, CEO  
Ms. K. Carson, Phones & Technical Asst  
Mr. D. Benotto, Virtual host and logistics  
Ms. D. Vatanen, Minutes  
Mr. R Osmond, Joined @ 4:10 pm

**1. Call to Order**

The Chair, Mr. Rea, called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm

**2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

**None.**

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**20.32** Moved by Patrick Neely  
Seconded by Grant Peters

**That the agenda of July 22, 2020 be approved.**

**Carried.**

**4. Adoption of the Previous Library Board Meeting Minutes**

**20.33** Moved by Patrick Neely  
Seconded by Lisa Post

**That the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 24, 2020 be adopted.**

**Carried.**

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**5. Presentation to the Board****None.**

The chair opened the discussion portion of the meeting with the following comments:

The events of a week ago when the story first broke that the Mill Street location of the library is closing shows the power of social media and how false information can spread so quickly. Significant community response (listed on the revised agenda for council 58 emails) and interest from the media prompted the board to call a special meeting to determine and articulate a position on the future of the library.

Firstly, at no time did this board make any decisions with respect to the closing of the Mill Street branch of the library.

Secondly, at no time has council for the Town of Orangeville made any decisions with respect to the closing of the Mill Street branch of the library.

The future of the Mill Street library was discussed in a report that an external consultant provided to the Town of Orangeville with respect to its long-term plan for the Parks and Recreational programs in the Town of Orangeville. This report provided to Council on Thursday, July 9th and was to be discussed in a meeting on Monday, July 13th but was deferred to a meeting at a later date. The idea of closing the Mill Street library is not something that has been up for discussion.

Something that has been up for discussion has been a significant expansion of the Alder Street Recreation Centre. You may recall that last year, the town applied for a Federal grant for a substantial expansion of services at Alder including:

- reconfiguration of the building entrances and parking lot
- pool expansion
- additional ice pads
- expanded library on the main floor

The Alder Recreation Centre proposal was seen as an opportune time to improve the Town's library services in relation to the community's size, and the evolving role of libraries in community and social programming. The Alder Street Proposal includes a 14,000 to 16,000 library on the main level. It provides the opportunity for physical space to expand libraries services in a manner that the current premises at the Mill Street location would not be able to accommodate such as a maker space, music studio, program rooms, expanded children's area, and other things that are in modern libraries servicing other communities today.

This board chose to write a letter of support to the Town that became part of its application for the Federal grant. This indication of support was in no way an abandonment of the ideas and the importance of a library in downtown

Orangeville where it plays a critical part of the downtown core. The Mill Street library is not just a place to get books, it is a community, social and cultural hub that is vital to any downtown core of a vibrant community.

There may be a legitimate concern that the closure of the Mill Street location may be a potential side effect of the Federal grant application, but I don't think this has to be the case and given the reactions to what we have seen from residents. I am hoping we can all agree that the closing of Mill Street is unacceptable.

So, what are we here to discuss this evening?

The Master Plan developed by the consultant is a high-level, guiding document, it is meant to help the Town make decisions for recreation and parks over the next 10 years that are in line with anticipated local needs and broader trends in service provision. This is our opportunity as a board to advocate for the town on a long-term vision for library services.

I personally believe that a library presence in the downtown core is essential for community well-being. I also believe that the Alder opportunity presents an opportunity to meet the growing demand for library services of the future.

So, at this point I would open the floor to board members that want to make an opening comment or present ideas for their long term vision of library services in Orangeville.

## 6. Information Items

- a. Town of Orangeville Recreation and Parks Master Plan – July 2020
- b. Handout: from the consultants
- c. Questions submitted to the Board
- d. Connection to the Community
- e. Connection to the Town
- f. Historic Charm - Dynamic Future
- g. Library, Recreation and the community hub
- h. Board's Role in Governance and Advocacy
- i. Library Mission Statement

**20.34** Moved by Benn MacDonald  
Seconded by Sheri Marks

**That the information items as listed be received.**

**Carried.**

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**7. Board Discussion – Long-term Vision**

**20.35** Moved by Lisa Post  
Seconded by Benn MacDonald

- a. **The board is committed to a long-term vision that continues to include a presence of the Orangeville Public Library at the Mill Street location in downtown Orangeville.**
- b. **The board continues to be committed to a long-term vision that may involve an expanded Orangeville Public Library at the Alder Street Recreational Centre depending on acquiring capital funding.**
- c. **The board is of the view that both ‘a’ and ‘b’ above are realistic and consistent with the view of servicing residents both now and over the next 10 years.**
- d. **The board welcomes input from patrons and residents and looks forward to providing further input to council for its consideration.**

**Carried.**

**8. Comments and Announcements**

There were no questions from the public to the library board.

Ms. Fraser updated the board:

- The library is moving forward with Phase 3 and will be opening up very soon. Public access will be offered with appropriate limits and restrictions.
- Curbside Pick-up will increase to six days per week Monday – Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm.

**9. Adjournment**

**20:36** Moved by Patrick Neely  
Seconded by Benn MacDonald

**That the meeting be adjourned**

**(Time: 4:43 pm)**

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Bill Rea, Chair

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Darla Fraser, CEO/Secretary

**Next Meeting:  
Wednesday, September 23, 2020 @ 5:00 pm**