

Held: Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 7pm

Location: Central Library

Attendees: Councillor S. Butt; Councillor L. Cook; K. Danylak; A. Maginley (Chair); F. Mahjabeen; A. Mir; D. Sharma; S. Sheehy; K. Smuk

Absent: Councillor M. Brenner; B. Kenworthy

Staff: S. Oza, (Acting) CEO/Director of Public Libraries; C. Moore, Director, Corporate Services & Collections; L. Wallis, (Acting) Executive Assistant; J. Derlatka, Manager, Collections & Digital Experience; D. Martin-Wylie, Client Experience Specialist – Local History; R. Perera, Deputy Clerk, City of Pickering (Virtual – departed at 7:32pm)

1. Meeting Called to Order

A. Maginley called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm

2. Land Acknowledgement

K. Danylak read the City of Pickering Land Acknowledgement.

3. Public Delegations

There were no Public Delegations

4. Approval of Agenda, Conflict of Interest Disclosure

No interest was declared.

Agenda was amended to include item 14.2 Canadian Urban Library Council Advocacy Update.

Motion #26.41

Moved by D. Sharma, Seconded by Councillor L. Cook **Motion THAT** the Agenda be adopted as amended.

Carried.

5. Presentations

5.1 Indigenous Relations

Presentation did not take place and will be rescheduled for a later meeting.

5.2 Local History

J. Derlatka and D. Martin-Wylie introduced themselves and delivered a presentation on the Pickering Public Library's Local History Collection.

D. Martin-Wylie advised that the Local History Collection is a specialized component of the library's overall holdings and includes approximately 20,000 physical and digital items.

The collection has been relocated to the Dorsay Community and Heritage Centre, where materials previously housed at the Central Library and offsite storage locations are now consolidated within the new Local History Experience Centre (LHEC). The LHEC will increase public access through enhanced researcher support, interactive displays, specialized programming and school visits, the addition of a memory station and other technology-based experiences, and more streamlined research services.

Recent acquisitions include over 50 boxes of materials donated by a local historical society and more than 500 boxes transferred from the Archives of Ontario, dating from 1811–1960. A significant volume of material remains to be processed prior to public access.

An overview of the collection processing workflow was provided, including assessment against the collection policy, identification and arrangement of materials, digitization, and public access through Laserfiche.

Board members participated in an augmented reality demonstration showcasing selected collection items.

During the discussion period, staff clarified donations are not being sought at this time. The focus is on reviewing the existing collection and identifying gaps. As well, future outreach will prioritize materials to expand the collection, particularly from underrepresented communities.

It was noted that the collection currently includes limited Indigenous materials. The next steps planned include building relationships with Indigenous communities and exploring oral history initiatives. Outreach to Mississauga's communities through the Region was suggested.

Staff confirmed that archival standards are followed, the new facility is climate-controlled, and the collection policy permits deaccessioning when appropriate, with full documentation.

Discussion occurred regarding potential eligibility and interest in applying for heritage grant funding, noting that Pickering Museum Village received a Heritage Ontario Grant in the previous year.

LHEC staffing consists of one specialist, which is standard for archives of this size. Summer students provide additional support, and service capacity will be monitored as usage increases.

Authenticity verification processes include donor interviews, documentation review, physical examination, and research. Materials outside the collection's scope may be referred to other institutions.

Appreciation was expressed for the establishment of the new space and the advancement of an initiative that has been under discussion for many years.

6. Consent Agenda

6.1 Minutes of the Previous Board Meeting – March 26, 2026

6.2 Library Information Update - March

6.3 2025 Financial Review

6.4 2026 Q1 Stats Review

6.5 2026 Q1 Financial Review

6.6 P22 Use of Library Resources During an Election Campaign Policy

Motion #26.42

Moved by Councillor S. Butt, Seconded by A. Mir **Motion THAT** the items on the Consent Agenda be adopted.

Carried.

7. Correspondence

7.1 None.

8. Ends Discussion

8.1 None.

9. Staff Reports

9.1 Anti-Black Racism Working Group Update

S. Oza provided an update from the Anti-Black Racism Working Group meeting held on April 8. During February and March, members focused on community engagement and shared feedback and insights gained through that work. ABRWG members also met and spoke directly with Library staff.

It was shared the Working Group has identified the need to review and revisit the African-Canadian Ancestral Land Acknowledgement currently in use by the Pickering Public Library. The Working Group is exploring potential revisions to ensure accuracy and appropriateness.

The ABRWG has been selected by the City of Pickering to receive the 2025 City of Pickering's Community Group Award, in recognition of the ABRWG's outstanding achievements. This award will be presented at the City of Pickering's Civic Awards Ceremony on May 12, 2026. Hearty congratulations were extended to the group.

10. Executive Limitations Policies & Monitoring Reports

10.1 EL 01 General Executive Constraint

The EL-01 Report was reviewed and found to be in compliance based on the evidence available.

With J. Flowers leaving the CEO position in February F. Mahjabeen inquired how and when the reported metrics and evidence was gathered. Corresponding information was provided by C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services and Collections, to support the report.

Questions were raised regarding whether grant-related financial information is shared with the City. It was confirmed that the Library follows City policies and procedures and is included in the City's annual financial audit.

The request was made to amend the report to update the reference year, as it was advised by C. Moore that the Library works with City HR to submit the required applications and staff lists on an annual basis.

Clarification was provided regarding Pay Equity Review processes:
Management positions are reviewed using the City's framework.
Union staff follow a different format based on the Collective Agreement

A question was asked as to whether the Library maintains its own bank account.
C. Moore confirmed that Library-generated revenue is transferred to the City and recorded as donation revenue.
The Library is exploring the implementation of a designated fund for specific projects.

Motion #26.43

Moved by F. Mahjabeen, Seconded by D. Sharma **Motion THAT** Board has received the monitoring report for policy EL 01 General Executive Constraint as amended; and agrees that it provides reasonable interpretation of the policy and evidence of compliance; and THAT the Board adopt policy EL 01 General Executive Constraint as presented, the policy being complete, sound, and effective.

Carried.

Executive Limitations policy EL 04 Staff Conduct will be discussed at the next Board meeting. All members were asked to review prior to the next meeting. Assigned to A. Mir.

11. Board Committee Reports

11.1 Report of the Building Committee

Did not meet.

11.2 Report of the CEO Recruitment Committee

Update provided during in-camera portion of meeting.

12. Governance

12.1 None.

13. Board Policy Review

13.1 None.

14. New & Unfinished Business

14.1 Member Community Reports

A. Maginley shared that he visited the George Ashe Library last week while his son was attending a program. He noted that the building was very busy and well attended.

L. Cook shared that she observed OVEE at the Pickering Waterfront as part of its outreach efforts.

14.2 Canadian Urban Library Council (CULC) Advocacy Update

S. Oza provided an update regarding Bill 28, which addresses public library governance in Alberta. A briefing document was shared with the Board.

A comparison was presented between Ontario's current library governance model, which operates at the local level, and the proposed changes under Bill 28, which would shift governance to the Provincial level in that province.

A recommendation was made for the Board to oppose Bill 28 and to align with advocacy efforts, including those led by CULC.

Discussion and agreement took place to bring forward this opposition to Alberta's Bill 28 to City Council in June.

The Board expressed support to communicate this opposition with CULC and offered support to S. Oza in other advocacy efforts.

Motion # 26.44

Moved by Councillor S. Butt, Seconded by Councillor L. Cook **MOTION THAT** the Pickering Public Library Board: Express its opposition to Alberta Bill 28, the Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026, in order to preserve library independence, as the bill would transfer authority over public library collections and customer access from locally appointed library boards and professional library staff to provincial government ministers;

THAT this Board reaffirm its commitment to an independent library system, intellectual freedom, customer privacy, equitable access to information, and the principle of local governance of public libraries, consistent with the Public Libraries Act of Ontario; and THAT this Board direct the (Acting) Chief Executive Officer/Director of Public Library's to communicate this resolution to the Canadian Urban Libraries Council, and this municipality's Members of Provincial Parliament and City of Pickering Mayor and Council.

Carried.

15. Confidential Matter

The meeting format was restructured. The meeting began with item 15 Confidential Matter. The Board moved into a closed session.

Motion #26.38

THAT the Board move into IN-Camera in accordance with provisions of Section 16.1 (4) of the Ontario Libraries Act and Section 3.9 of the Pickering Public Library Board Bylaws, in the matters to be discussed are related to:

d) Personal matters about an identifiable individual.

Carried.

Library staff exited the meeting as the Board appointed R. Perera, Deputy Clerk for the City of Pickering, to serve as Recording Secretary.

Motion #26.39

THAT R. Perera, Deputy Clerk, City of Pickering, be appointed as secretary for the Pickering Public Library Board to record minutes and provide procedural advice as needed during the course of the in-camera portion of the meeting.

Carried.

Motion #26.40

THAT the Board rise from the closed session of the Pickering Public Library Board Meeting.

Carried.

This portion of the meeting was closed to the public. Refer to the In Camera meeting minutes for further information. [Deputy Clerk, City of Pickering has custody and control of the In

Camera minutes].

No decision was made during the closed session. The CEO Recruitment Committee will continue with the CEO selection process.

16. Board Meeting Evaluation

Chair Maginley shared the results of the previous month's Board meeting self-evaluation. Board members were asked to complete the evaluation for the current Board meeting.

17. Date of Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21 at 7:00 pm.

Motion #26.45

Moved by Councillor S. Butt, Seconded by F. Mahjabeen **Motion THAT** the meeting be adjourned.

Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Signature of Library CEO:



Date: April 24, 2026

Signature of Library Board Chair:



Date: April 24, 2026