

Last motion 26-25

Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library



Board Meeting

Wed Jun 17, 2026 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM EDT

1. Call to order & introduction

A regular meeting of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library board was called to order at 5:31pm by D. Novak

Present: Benoit Beausoleil, Susan Elliott, Robin Foster, Daryl Novak, Wayne Scott, Adriana Vizzari (Town Council Representative), Katie Wiens

Staff: Debbie Krause (Community Engagement Coordinator), Laura Tait (CEO)

Regrets: Maria Mavridis (Town Council Representative)

Absent: Heloisa Varesio

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION 26-26: Moved by R. Foster that the agenda be approved. **CARRIED**

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

4. Delegations

None

5. May 20, 2026 Board Meeting Draft Minutes

MOTION 26-27: Moved by K. Wiens that May 20, 2026 board minutes be approved.
CARRIED

6. Board Self-Evaluation Follow Up

W. Scott led a discussion focused on reflecting on early experiences as board members, with the goal of strengthening the orientation process for future members, Key reflections included:

- The importance of early engagement with library staff and gaining a clear understanding of library operations
- The value and effectiveness of board training sessions and workshops
- The need for transition documents that clearly outline board responsibilities and provide key contacts for new members

7. Operational Updates

7.1. Staff Report

L. Tait reported that the Summer Kickoff was successful, with 300 attendees and 66 sign-ups, and noted a \$500 donation from the Virgil Business Association for the Summer Reading Club. Participation in Play in the Park has begun and will continue throughout the summer. Summer student training starts next week, and recruitment is underway for three student pages. Planning is ongoing for an August event with Pride Niagara, and a new Library News feature will launch in July.

ACTION: L. Tait will review options with staff for contributing content to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake monthly newsletter.

7.2. Media Coverage Report

L. Tait reported that two paid advertisements were placed over the past month to promote the Summer Kickoff, and noted the publication of a board article on Intellectual Freedom. D. Krause noted that an article on D. Novak that made reference to his being on the library board should have been included in the list.

7.3. Valuing Ontario Libraries Toolkit (VOLT)

L. Tait presented the 2025 VOLT results and noted that select findings will be incorporated into the 2027 budget materials.

7.4. Correspondence

L. Tait reported that correspondence had been received from the estate of Elizabeth Anne Molson indicating that the library has been named as a beneficiary in her will.

8. Business Arising

8.1. Finance Committee

L. Tait reported that revenues are projected to finish slightly above budget. At this time, no variances in expenses are anticipated, though this may change as the year progresses. Board members indicated they are satisfied with the current budget format and level of summary provided.

L. Tait indicated that she will bring forward the 2027 budget proposal at the September board meeting.

8.2. Advocacy Committee

W. Scott presented the updated Strategic Plan document for input. Feedback was solicited from board members regarding the clarity and presentation. Discussion included the need for a summary of current programs and services to complement the high-level strategic overview for various stakeholders.

8.3. Governance Committee

W. Scott proposed integrating new board member orientation with a review of the key governance documents to ensure clarity and preparedness. Board agreed to this adjustment to the governance committee's work plan.

8.4. Board Transition Committee

D. Novak reported on a meeting with Town staff, the Lord Mayor, Councillor Vizzari, and L. Tait to discuss the board selection process. D. Novak will follow-up with town staff over the summer.

A. Vizzari proposed that the board consider identifying a meaningful initiative that could have a lasting impact on the community and further strengthen the library's role as part of its legacy.

ACTION: All board members are to email L. Tait with a proposal for one actionable legacy initiative, outlining its potential scope, impact, and alignment with the library's mission and strategic plan.

9. Community Engagement & Inquiries

None

10. Other Business

None

11. Meeting Termination

MOTION 26-28: Moved by B. Beausoleil that the meeting be terminated at 6:53pm.

CARRIED