

Purpose: Job and position descriptions for Board Trustees provide direction as well as a consistent means of measuring performance and are an important component of Board self-governance.

Definition

Library Board Trustee: an individual who has been appointed by City of Brooks Council with the responsibility of the governance of Brooks Public Library.

Trustee Job Description

Organization

City of Brooks Library Board

Position

Library Board Trustee

Area of Authority

The City of Brooks Library Board is the legal authority for Brooks Public Library and is collectively responsible for governing all aspects of library operation. A Library Board trustee (member) is a volunteer on the Library's Board, representing the interests of the community, to manage the library effectively. Each trustee is responsible for actively participating in discussion, policy development, and decision making.

Requirements of Membership

- Belief in the importance of libraries and commitment to the vision and mission of Brooks Public Library
- Willingness to serve, and to sit on one or more Board committees (time commitment varies with number of meetings, conferences, etc. each month)
- Skill, knowledge or experience in one or more areas of Board governance: policy, program, personnel, finance, or advocacy

Tasks

- Become aware of and fully informed on library matters, issues, and legislation
- Contribute to discussion and decision making and foster positive relations among Board trustees, committees, staff, and community
- Accept responsibility for library affairs and governance

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Board Chair

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Replaces Policy: 2-A-96

- Develop, approve, monitor, review, and evaluate policy, bylaws, budget, and plan of service
- Develop skills through attendance at workshops, conferences, trainings, etc.
- Monitor Board and trustee effectiveness

Appointment

Appointment to the Board is made by the City of Brooks Council for a term of three years and may be renewed, as set out in Part 1, section 4.4 of *The Alberta Libraries Act* which states: "A member of the municipal (library) board is eligible to be reappointed for only 2 additional consecutive terms of office, unless at least 2/3 of the whole (city) council passes a resolution stating that the member may be appointed as a member for more than 3 consecutive terms."

Orientation

Newly Appointed Trustees will receive a Trustee Orientation Package (Attachment A).

Evaluation

Each trustee shall annually participate in an evaluation of his or her performance of Board duties and responsibilities, using a checklist and standards agreed upon by the Board. (See Attachment B, Trustee Evaluation Checklist)

Termination

Termination of trusteeship (as specified in *The Libraries Act*) may occur at the conclusion of the appointed term; after three consecutive missed Board meetings not authorized by the Board; by a decision of Council; or by resignation.

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Board Position Descriptions

Chair

- Provides leadership to the Board
- Sets the tone and climate for Board activity
- Ensures that the Board meets requirements of trusteeship
- Determines the need for meetings, sets the time, sets the agenda, and chairs meetings according to procedure accepted by the Board
- Calls meetings to order and adjourns them within the appointed times
- Pursues knowledge of Board and chair responsibilities, appropriate legislation, bylaws, policies, and rules of order through ongoing development and education opportunities
- Summarizes and brings closure to discussion, without introducing personal opinions and biases
- Facilitates the contribution of all trustees to Board business
- Ensures that Board plans are followed, adhering to legislation, bylaws, and policy
- Ensures that proper records are kept and signs adopted minutes of meetings
- Has signing authority for library accounts
- Implements the decisions of the Board, usually assigning specific tasks or delegating to committee
- Ensures that committee chairs are in place, and may appoint committee chairs
- Calls for election of Board positions annually and when positions become vacant

Vice-Chair

- Assumes duties of the chair in the absence of the chair
- May have signing authority on library accounts
- May have on-going assigned duties, such as trustee recruitment or orientation

Secretary

- Records the minutes of Board meetings and provides copies to trustees at least one week prior to next meeting
- Notifies Board members of meetings not regularly scheduled
- Confirms locations for meetings
- Handles library correspondence as directed by the Board i.e. Thank yous
- May hold signing authority for library accounts
- Acts as chair if both chair and vice-chair are absent

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Treasurer

- Is a member of the Human Resource and Finance Committee
- Is familiar with current accounting practice and applicable legislation
- Submits a financial summary and status report to Board meetings
- Has, with two or three others, signing authority for library accounts
- Assists the Library Manager with an annual financial report
- With the assistance of the Chair and the Library Manager, ensures that the annual report required by Government of Alberta Municipal Affairs, Public Library Services Branch is properly prepared, audited and submitted
- Assists Library Manager as requested with researching potential revenue sources, including application criteria, procedures, deadlines, grants and special funding
- Assists the Chair and Library Manager with the Board's budget and estimate of funds to council and other funding bodies
- Spearheads the development of Board financial policy
- Takes advantage of training opportunities to enhance knowledge of library financial management

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Attachment A

Trustee Evaluation

Am I an Effective Board Member?

- Do I arrive at meetings on time prepared to actively participate?
- Do I prepare reports, motions~ etc., in writing if possible, and submit them to the Board Secretary in sufficient time for distribution before the meeting?
- Do I read Board material in advance of meetings, noting comments and questions?
- Do I follow through on assigned activities?
- Do I notify the Chair in plenty of time about items for the agenda?
- Have I developed working knowledge of the Board manual and applicable legislation?
- Do I maintain friendly, positive relationships with other Board members and staff?
- Do I ask questions?
- Do I participate in discussion and decision making, ensuring that I offer my relevant comments and suggestions prior to the Board's decision?
- If I disagree, do I disagree with ideas and motions rather than individuals?
- Do I understand the rules of order and rules of the table chosen by the Board to facilitate meetings?
- Do I calendar Board and committee meetings and events, to allow time for advance preparation?
- Do I notify the Chair in advance if I am unable to attend a meeting?
- Do I keep my own copy of the Board Manual current, including agendas, minutes, and other materials, and do I discard outdated materials?
- When my term is up or when I resign, will I pass my up-to-date Board Manual to the trustee who replaces me?
- Do I always speak positively of the library to the public?

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