

Excerpt from the Minutes
Strathcona County Library Board
March 15, 2021
Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Board Members Present

Cathy Allen
David Atkinson
Denise Charbonneau
Gene Syvenky
Keely Cronin
Leah Lewis
Meagan Olive (Chair)
Pam See-Too
Susan Miskiman
Councillor Linton Delaine

Library Staff

Sharon Siga (Chief Executive Officer)
Brenda-Lee Schmidt (Executive Assistant - Minutes)

- 8.5 Policy Committee
 - 8.5.1 Minutes of the March 8, 2021 Meeting
 - 8.5.2 2021 Policy Committee Work Plan

MOTION 34/2021

That the Strathcona County Library Board approve the draft 2021 Policy Committee Workplan as presented.

Moved by Leah Lewis

CARRIED

- 8.5.3 Revisions to Bylaw 1-2016 that will become Bylaw 1-2021

Sharon Siga spoke to this item noting that with the Library re-opening tomorrow, there is urgency in ensuring that the library bylaw reflect requirement of the public to wear a mask in entering the Central Library with no exceptions. There was considerable discussion regarding the need to revise the library bylaw versus a board resolution. Sharon Siga indicated that the revision to the library bylaw was recommended by Ken Allen of the

PLSB during the February 16 orientation for new board members because this bylaw governs safety and public admittance to the library

The Library Board does have the ability to pass resolutions anytime; however, in order to ensure the safety of staff, reference to the library bylaw is considered a stronger statement when dealing with the public. The requirement of wearing a mask when entering businesses is considered to be a long-term mandatory public health measure and as such, revising the bylaw will not be a short-term change. Based how the Edmonton Public Library and City of Edmonton makes masks mandatory, it was recommended that the inclusion of “the exception of children under 2 years of age” be incorporated into the library bylaw. This was agreed to by the Library Board prior to the bylaw being voted on.

The revised version of this section of the bylaw is as follows:

2.1 Public Admittance

The portion of any building used for public library purposes shall be open to any member of the public free of charge during the hours of opening as set out in the Library Board Policy called Hours of Service /Emergency Closings (CO 02) with the exception of those individuals banned from the library and the Community Centre and the following exception. All persons using library facilities shall comply with applicable public health regulations, including mandatory mask requirements. Patrons unable to wear a mask will not be admitted to library premises or on the Bookmobile. The only exception honoured will be persons under the age of two. Alternative services will be offered.

The library shall not accept supervisory responsibility for unaccompanied children under the age of twelve. See Library Board Policy OP02 Unattended Children in the Library.

It was also suggested that an FAQ be prepared to include reference to the bylaw requirement while also highlighting alternate service options. The recommendation of entry requirements and service options are to be communicated via all forms of social media to ensure the message reaches the public.

Sharon Siga spoke about the recent newspaper article. Unfortunately, the reporter added this phrase: “No mask, no service.” The intent of this article was to let the public know that everyone will receive library service, but in some cases, it may be through alternative means. A better phrase would

have been “No mask, let’s talk.” The Library Board directed Library Administration to forward a letter to the editor, signed by the Board Chair, to the Sherwood Park News thanking them for the article, but stressing the options available to library patrons. Sharon Siga will take this to the Communications Team.

MOTION 35/2021

That the Strathcona County Library Board Bylaw 1-2021 be given first reading.

Moved by Denise Charbonneau

CARRIED

MOTION 36/2021

That the Strathcona County Library Board Bylaw 1-2021 be given second reading.

Moved by Cathy Allen

CARRIED

MOTION 37/2021

That the Strathcona County Library Board Bylaw 1-2021 proceed with the third reading.

Moved by Leah Lewis

UNANIMOUS

MOTION 38/2021

That the Strathcona County Library Board Bylaw 1-2021 be given third and final reading.

Moved by Susan Miskiman

CARRIED

- 8.5.4 Revised Bylaw 1-2016 Schedule that will become Bylaw 1-2021 Schedules With the Library no longer charging for memberships or fines, there was discussion regarding the relevance reference to overdue fines. It was the recommendation of the Policy Committee that the reference be retained. Anyone referring to the Schedules will see that the Board has chosen to not charge these fees.