



160 Main Street, Winkler, MB R6W 0M3

# South Central REGIONAL LIBRARY

204-325-5864

MISSION STATEMENT: "TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO RESOURCES TO MEET THE EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL, INFORMATIONAL AND LEISURE-TIME NEEDS OF CITIZENS OF ALL AGES AND BACKGROUNDS. THE LIBRARY STRIVES TO FOSTER A LIFE-LONG INTEREST IN READING AND LEARNING."

## Minutes - Board Meeting – April 17, 2023 Morden Meeting Room – 6:30 p.m. or via Zoom

**Council Reps:** Chad Collins, Board Chair, Municipality of Pembina; Marvin Plett, City of Winkler; Garry Hiebert, City of Morden; Cheryl Dueck, Town of Altona; Hank Froese, Rhineland Municipality; Bob Giesbrecht, R.M. of Stanley; Donna Cox, R. M. of Thompson

**Citizen Reps:** Sharon Fehr, Municipality of Pembina; Laverne Siemens, Town of Altona; Jody Oakes, R.M. of Thompson; Marilyn Dyck, Rhineland Municipality; Bernie Loeppky, R.M. of Stanley; Wes Hildebrand, City of Morden

Cathy Ching, Director; Gail Hildebrand, Morden Branch Administrator

**Regrets:** Jody Oakes, R.M. of Thompson; Emma Montgomery, City of Winkler  
Member of the public

1. Call to order: 6:31 p.m.
2. Additions to and adoption of the agenda: Correspondence – To Karin Banman, From MLA
3. Adoption of minutes of previous meeting: Not adopted – amendments to be added from March 20, 2023, meeting – Feb Branch Reports, Policy adoptions
4. Business arising from the minutes: 2022 Audit – GTP – in camera – Kyra Edsel presenting – thank you to GTP for their work in getting all 2022 finances sorted out – **Sharon/Marvin – m/s/c**
5. Committee Reports:
  - 5.01 Finance: March Financial Report (green) – Very pleased with Indigo. Monthly financials and Budget vs Actuals (with date included) is all we need – not a profit/loss statement. ER portion of Manulife & MEBP to be returned to accounts at the end of each month. Garry – Payroll clearing account to be cleared every month - **Sharon/Garry m/s/c**

New Business - J. Turk, Director, Centre for Free Expression (CFE) – <https://cfe.torontomu.ca/> – presentation RE: SCRL challenged books and Board response. Jim stressed the importance of the democratic right to free expression and how a public library & its holdings are for everyone. No one is obligated to read a book and a minority cannot infringe on the rights of others. Objections are based on 'others' access to these books – it is a parental/guardian responsibility not an action group or council. The Library Board Act is (& should be) separate from Municipal Councils. Books being challenged are award winners and available in libraries across the globe. These are not poorly written books and have become more popular as they are being challenged. Encouraged the Board to stand by our well-written policies as the allegations against SCRL are false and defamatory. Jim recommended the Board develop a policy for library programming as this has been challenged in other locations. Floor was open to questions by board members. Discussion followed presentation.



# South Central REGIONAL LIBRARY

160 Main Street, Winkler, MB R6W 0M3

204-325-5864

6. Correspondence: **NOTE** - Moved up from original agenda as many items following Jim's presentation were part of the correspondence.
- FR: Minister of Sport, Culture & Heritage (2 documents)
  - FR: Mayor Siemens & City of Winkler Council
  - TO: Minister of Sport, Culture & Heritage
  - TO: Morden City Council
  - TO: Mayors, Reeves & Councils
  - TO: Mayor Siemens & City of Winkler Council – Motion rescinded for this to be official letter to Council - **Cheryl/Donna m/s** – Marilyn recommends Board research other library responses to councils regarding book challenges
  - TO: Reeve Friesen & Stanley Council
  - FR: Morden Area Foundation & Thomas Sill Foundation
  - FR: R.M. of Thompson
  - FR: Municipality of Pembina
  - FR: Trevor Surgenor (PLS)
  - FR: Karin Banman – Point of acknowledgement – we received this information & it was to be presented at March 20, 2023 meeting.
  - TO: Karin Banman
  - FR: MLA
- 6.01 Statistics: March(*blue*) – January & February statistics were redone, and March is up to date. Stats show all branches are busier than ever with 344 new patrons this year. Cathy requested Councils look at the numbers because these are the people using the libraries and not the group challenging us.
- 6.02 Personnel / Policy: Lost/damaged books – fee recommendation – Cathy to look into the Fines Policy and bring it to the next meeting.
- 6.03 Public Relations / Fund Raising:
- 7.05 Facilities/Automation: Winkler Branch request / Manitou Branch request – requests to close for reconfiguration and renovations – both branches have projects needing to be done. Patrons will be notified well in advance – Approved.
7. Branch Reports – February (not included) - March – Gail reported a short summary on the March report for Morden Branch – LEGO club – extremely popular – branch is constantly busy with requests and patron services.
8. New business: Annual Report 2022 – review & approval – **Marvin/Bob m/s/c** – Bernie likes the readability of the report as people will want to pick it up to read.  
Marvin Plett – letter to the Board – RE: end of term as board member – Thank you from Chad and Board for his many years of service, experience, and leadership. The new City of Winkler Board rep will be Don Fehr.
9. Adjourned: **9:42 p.m.**

C. Collins

Chad Collins, Board Chair

Cathy Ching

Cathy Ching, Director