

Public Libraries Interest Group (PLIG) Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 24, 2020 | 6:00-7:30PM | New Westminster Public Library, 2nd floor, Ash Street Room, 716 - 6th Avenue, New Westminster

Present: Gillian Guilment- Smith, Co-Chair (VPL), Adam Farrell, Co-Chair (NWPL), Liz Hunter (NWPL), Aviva (Jewish Public Library)

Recorder: Vicky Woo, Recording Secretary (VPL)

Absent: William Deureme, Communications Officer (VPL)

Meeting begins at 6:00PM

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Meeting Agenda - Approved by group with one amendment by Adam, to add "Membership participation and Relationship to BCLA"

3. Review of meeting minutes from November 2019

4. Website Review/Update

We are reviewing our Public Library Interest Group webpage on the BCLA website.

- Action - Members will look at page and bring ideas for additions to our next meeting..

5. Membership Participation and relationship to BCLA

Membership has always been a challenge for our interest group. Adam suggested that we consider looking at the pros/cons of the PLIG group changing from being an *interest* group to a *section*. This is something that can also be informed by the membership survey. We also discussed combining meeting dates with the journal club and meetups to increase relevance for attendance and engagement.

- Action - Adam is going to contact BCLA about possible teleconference options for meetings.

6. BCLA Perspectives - "Day in the Life" Column

The "Day in the Life" column is currently suspended until further notice.

- Action - Gillian/ Adam will connect with the *BCLA Perspectives* editors to consider the value of the column, audience, and who might take this on.

7. Update on the work-plan

Given it's been a few years since our last survey, Gillian and Vicky will create a new survey for our members to take on what they hope to learn/gain from the group. With the results, we will start a new work plan.

- Action - Gillian & Vicky will meet to create survey.

8. Advocacy

We had a small discussion on how the \$20 million dollar campaign by the provincial government had excluded libraries from their budget. What could PLIG do to advocate the importance of library services to our government? See recent announcement from the BC Public Libraries Partners: <https://lnkd.in/gRWyVKK>

9. Journal Club Update

Richard Kuehle (BPL) and Deb Thomas organized the February 20th's journal club meeting: *Platforming Meghan Murphy: Inclusion and Freedom of Expression*. They provided a summary that the evening went well, with an attendance of nine people, and that participants were appreciative of the location. Deb also reported that everyone agreed that "no challenge to freedom of expression - whether from the right or left - is without nuance and complexity. And no decision in these cases made lightly."

Liz Hunter, who was also at the journal club meeting, echoed that it was a great session.

10. Student Rep Update

We have a new student rep from UBC library school; Annie Macanulty. Welcome Annie!

11. Roundtable

Gillian - started planning Summer Reading Club and hoping to surpass the number of registrants Vancouver Public Library had last year (9000!) Gillian will also be a guest lecturer at Tess Prendergast's LIBR 527 iSchool class.

Vicky - will be conducting staff training on Community Engagement for Vancouver Public Library.

Aviva - The Isaac Waldman Jewish Public Library is celebrating its 25th anniversary in April. They will also be hosting for the first time, a Drag storytime.

Liz and Adam - New Westminster Public Library are currently working on strategic planning.

12. Next Meeting

May 14th 2020, 9:00-10:30AM, Location TBD