

THE ONTARIO CITY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OVITT FAMILY COMMUNITY LIBRARY  
215 East C Street  
March 12, 2024  
(Subject to Board approval)

CALL TO ORDER This meeting was called to order by Board President Elisabeth Armijo at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led by Board member Aaron Bratton

MEMBERS PRESENT Board Vice President Crisol Mena, Board member Devlin Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT Board Secretary Felicia Chien

ALSO, PRESENT Library Director, Shawn Thrasher, Library Services Manager, Daisy Flores and Library Services Manager, Kelly Zackmann.

INTRODUCTIONS None

PUBLIC COMMENTS None

CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE: Mayor Pro Tem Debra Porada

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Moved by Board member Smith and seconded by Board member Bratton and unanimously carried to approve the minutes for the Library Board meeting on February 13, 2024. Moved by Board member Smith and seconded by Board Vice President Mena and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Calendar for February 2024.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Library Director Thrasher spoke about the following items:

- Serving With a Purpose Conference on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.
- National Library Week is April 7, 2024 through April 13, 2024.
- Inland Empire Fatherhood Summit on April 13, 2024 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Request for Reconsideration process completed.
- Recognition of Casey Enkoff for over 1,000 hours volunteered.

No Board comments or questions.

STAFF REPORT

Introduction and Overview of OntarioNet

Broadband General Manager, Jimmy Chang and Broadband Coordinator Mayra Vega presented:

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Background:

Since the early 2000's, the City of Ontario has been building and managing a fiber optic network to provide high-speed internet infrastructure to City facilities, residents, and businesses. This infrastructure is a market differentiator and a strategic advantage for those doing business, living, or visiting the City. In today's world, digital access, equity, and literacy are crucial to empower our residents to use technology and connect effectively and safely. Whether it's for learning, working, health or play, the internet has become an essential tool for everyday life.

*(A copy of this presentation is available upon request from the Library Director)*

Board member Smith asked if any other municipalities were used as a model for this project. Broadband General Manager Chang informed the Board that they modeled this 20-plus-year vision and project after the City of Santa Monica and formed a partnership with the City of Santa Monica to learn from their journey.

Board member Bratton inquired about the assets indicated on the map in the presentation. Broadband General Manager Chang explained that some of the assets are underground utility boxes, conduits, or cables, and there are also hand holes that are placed every 200-300 feet to pull the cable through the conduits. Board member Bratton asked if this was an internet service provider like Frontier or Spectrum. Broadband General Manager Chang responded that this is an addition to those services as a low-cost solution, giving the community three different options to choose from. He also added this increases competition and keeps prices low. Board member Bratton questioned if the bill for this service would come from the City of Ontario. Broadband General Manager Chang replied that at this moment, the City of Ontario partners with a service provider to help deliver that service.

Board Vice President Mena asked if residents would still need to have fiber optic cables installed at their residences or if this service eliminates that. Broadband General Manager Chang explained that fiber optic cable is the premium method of high-speed internet, although fixed wireless options are increasing their reliability and capabilities, and the fiber optic cables can remain in the residences if switching providers.

Board President Armijo inquired about the areas that are not part of the service area just yet and how we can increase access to those who lack it currently. Broadband General Manager Chang explained that is something they are currently working on and discussing the addition of fixed wireless in place of fiber optic cables in areas to help our underserved communities, as shown in the Expansion 1 project. Broadband General Manager Chang went on to explain that if the Expansion 1 project went well, they would consider continuing to build that infrastructure if the funding became available. Board President Armijo asked Broadband General Manager Chang to provide the benefits of switching providers to OntarioNet. Broadband General Manager Chang replied that one of the biggest benefits of switching would be that there would be no contract or pricing changes after 12 months like some of the competitors. Broadband General Manager Chang mentioned the other benefit would be speed, which OntarioNet has been providing and is continuing to develop faster speeds to keep up with the growing needs of the devices in the home.

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Board member Bratton asked if OntarioNet was the backbone of some of the free Wi-Fi spots around the city, including the library. Broadband General Manager Chang explained that some of the areas with free Wi-Fi are utilizing the OntarioNet system but that it is dependent on the departments to pick OntarioNet as their provider. He also went on to add that for crucial locations, the City will pick two to three providers to ensure if any failures happen, there are backup options.

Board Vice President Mena inquired about marketing for this service currently and in the future. Broadband Coordinator Vega responded that in any areas where they are building the service, they host community events or pop-ups at local parks or community centers to bring awareness, along with postcards or door hangers on residences to let residents know what is being offered. Broadband Coordinator Vega added that social media is also used for marketing, as is Ontario Living Magazine.

#### STAFF REPORT

##### 2024 State of the City Library Board of Trustees Roles and Responsibilities

Library Director, Shawn Thrasher presented:

##### Background:

According to the National League of Cities, a state of the city is “a presentation given once each year used to increase transparency and help local leaders connect with constituents, network with community stakeholders, and to tout our accomplishments to the community.” The event is an opportunity to showcase a city’s achievements.

The Ontario State of the City is divided into two portions: a ticketed business address and a community social. These take place on different days and times.

The City of Ontario State of the City business address will take place on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at the Ontario Convention Center. The schedule for the event is as follows: A sponsor-only reception will commence at 4pm, followed by registration and a general reception at 5pm. At 6pm, the state of the city program will begin, featuring Mayor Paul Leon and the City Council. Following the program, there will be a networking event for attendees to further engage and connect. In addition to the mayor and city council, the event includes local dignitaries, community stakeholders, City staff, local media outlets, and community members including business owners and residents. The 2023 State of the City business address had over 700 attendees.

*(A copy of this presentation is available upon request from the Library Director)*

Board member Smith asked where the Board members should meet for the Saturday event, Ontario Live & Good Vibes. Director Thrasher informed the Board that they do not need to meet in one place but should enjoy the event and walk around.

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Mayor Pro Tem Porada inquired if the Library has a wish list of things that can be shared at the State of City by Board members for new items at the Library while they are networking. Library Services Manager Flores responded that the Library will have a list of items if Board members encounter someone asking about items that are desired by the Library.

STAFF REPORT

Reading Challenge Programs at OCL

Librarian, Tabitha Buckner presented:

Background:

Ontario City Library holds several reading challenge programs throughout the year to encourage Ontario City residents to read by logging their books and reaching reading goals. Reading challenge programs are designed to engage the public and promote the library's books. This is the first year that the Ontario City Library has offered hybrid reading challenges where patrons can register online at OntarioCA.Beanstack.org or in person and utilize a physical paper log.

*(A copy of this presentation is available upon request from the Library Director)*

Board Vice President Mena inquired about special education students and any modifications for them. Librarian Buckner replied there were no specific modifications, but children are allowed to be read to as well to get credit for the challenges. Board Vice President Mena asked if a child is in a wheelchair if the parents can bring their reading log in instead of the child. Librarian Buckner responded that it was accepted as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board member Bratton expressed his gratitude for the presentations and gave a special shout-out to Casey Enkoff for volunteering 1,000 hours at Ontario City Library.

Board Vice President Mena commented that Read Across America was celebrated from March 2 through March 6 and thanked all parents, educators, authors, librarians, and mentors who encourage children to read.

Board member Smith informed the Board of the upcoming Friends of Ontario City Library events. April 19 at 6:30 pm is an author event with Piper Hughley, and May 11 will be a media sale at the Ovitt Family Community Library.

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Board President Armijo thanked the Library staff for attending the Huerta del Valle community event and the ROP community event.

NEW BUSINESS

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Electronic Use Policy  
Public Display Policy

ADJOURNMENT


Board President Armijo adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

SUBMITTED:

  
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Charlotte Marteney, Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

  
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Elisabeth Armijo, Board President

Crisol Mena VP