



Newmarket Library
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Library Board Report

To: Newmarket Public Library Board

From: Tracy Munusami, C.E.O.

Date: May 15, 2024

RE: Anything and Everywhere: Book Vending Machines

Key Issue

The Library experienced a surplus in 2023 and has outlined reasons to introduce Book Vending Machines at Town-Owned Facilities. The Board's support is sought to approve funding for the procurement of these machines.

Recommendation

That the Library Board receive the report on Anything and Everywhere Book Vending Machines;

And That the Library Board approve the transfer of surplus funds up to \$95,000 from 2023 to be used for the purchase of Book Vending Machines.

Strategic Implications

As part of our strategic initiatives to deliver relevant and engaging services in alignment with our branding objective of being “Anything and Everywhere,” the Library proposes installing two book vending machines within town-owned facilities.

Background

The Library's collaboration with the Town of Newmarket aims to extend Library services to a wider audience by leveraging the Town's network and resources. Our focus is on meeting people where they are, which has led to successful initiatives like Storytimes in parks, programs in community spaces, and widespread library card sign-ups.

We are exploring opportunities to establish anchors at key community hubs like the Magna Centre, Ray Twinney, or the Newmarket Senior's Centre to enhance our presence further. This

aligns with our commitment to providing engaging and relevant services in welcoming and accessible spaces.

Introducing Book Vending Machines at these hubs will make library resources more accessible, enriching lives through learning and literacy while strengthening our partnership with the Town of Newmarket.

Discussion

Book Vending Machines at community hubs in Newmarket align with our commitment to "Anything and Everywhere" and our strategic pillars of "Providing engaging and relevant services." The Book Vending Machine not only enhances access to literature but also meets people where they are in their daily lives. Here is how Book Vending Machines can support the Community:

Focus on Books: With its exclusive offering of books, the machine embodies our dedication to providing engaging and relevant services to the community. By curating popular titles and children's literature, we ensure everyone can find something captivating to read regardless of age or reading preference.

Meeting people where they are: Whether individuals are picking something up after a workout, waiting for a child or sibling to finish a sport, or simply grabbing something quick because it's convenient, the Book Vending Machine makes accessing some Library resources effortless if you're at a community hub.

Branding and Marketing: We have the opportunity to make this Book Vending Machine uniquely ours with our colourful and inviting branding, while also ensuring that the machine reflects the spirit of our community. As an anchor of Library services in community hubs, the Book Vending Machine will remind the community of what the Library offers and can be placed near advertising for Library programs and services.

Integration with Library Services: The Book Vending Machine will be seamlessly integrated into our library system, appearing as a separate branch in our integrated library system, Polaris. This ensures that customers can easily access and return books borrowed from the machine, further extending the reach of Library Services.

Coordinated Implementation: Installation of the Book Vending Machines requires collaboration between various departments, including IT, Facilities, Recreation, and the Library. By working closely with our partners at the Town of Newmarket, we'll ensure that all necessary arrangements are made, from power and network connections to wall anchoring and site preparation.

Cost Considerations: While costs are associated with setting up each new location, including licensing and setup fees, the investment is worth it for its invaluable benefits to our community. We're investing in literacy, education, access and enriching our community members' lives.

By introducing a Book Vending Machine at community hubs in Newmarket, we are not just providing access to books; we're sparking imagination and a love for reading, fostering community engagement and access to Library resources, and empowering individuals to explore the world through reading. By seeking ways to be a part of the community, we can provide services in more integrated ways and meet the community where it is.

Financial Implications

The Library had a surplus in 2023, and it can request that the surplus be used for capital needs. Therefore, the Library would request to transfer \$95,000 to purchase two library vending machines.