

Advocacy Committee Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2019

Present: Debra Smith, Steven Levy, Norma Penney, Barb Gilliat, Gord Lawlor, Janine Stannard, Cora Knutson

Absent with regrets: Jeanny Fisher

Staff: Ron Sheppard, Kara Hamilton, Colleen Schalm

Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Sheppard.

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Motion by Levy to accept the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

2. Election of the Chair

According to the "Terms of Reference" for the Advocacy Committee, the committee will elect its own chairperson. Sheppard asked if there were nominations or volunteers. Levy nominated Deb Smith. Sheppard asked a second time for nominations or volunteers. Gord Lawlor volunteered for the position of Chair. Smith withdrew her name from the running. Sheppard asked a third time for nominations or volunteers.

Lawlor became Advocacy Committee Chair by acclamation.

Lawlor accepted the position and assumed the duty of Chair.

The Terms of Reference do not address the election of a Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair would normally fulfill the role of the chair during the absence of the Chair.

Barb Gilliat volunteered for the position of Vice-Chair.

Motion by Levy to appoint Gilliat as Vice-Chair

CARRIED

3. Parkland Board Advocacy Background Information

Schalm outlined a process for the Advocacy Committee to develop an advocacy plan. First a goal needs to be developed, then steps and actions to support that goal can be established.

- Staff were informed the Yellowhead Regional board chair may contact Deb Smith to discuss a provincial advocacy effort with the other Alberta Regional Systems.

- The topic of public libraries is one that can be pushed to the candidates to make it an election topic in the coming provincial election.
- Advocacy for public libraries must also continue past the election and through the provincial budgeting process to ensure that library funding is not cut by any government looking to reduce expenditures.

4. Immediate Advocacy Issues

After being led through a facilitated discussion by staff, the Advocacy Committee decided on four primary advocacy goals for PRL:

1. Libraries need stable funding
2. Libraries need to be seen as a core community service
3. Stakeholders understand **why** libraries are important
4. Residents will be aware of and use the array of library services

Committee members agreed that with the immediacy of the up-coming provincial election, ensuring libraries get stable funding and support should be the immediate focus.

The key is to know what is important to each listener. The advocate's points need to underline what resonates most with them.

Staff will send out talking points to the committee and they can respond with comments and feedback. The committee wishes to have talking points finalized as soon as possible and no later than the end of March.

5. Meeting Dates and Preferences

The Terms of Reference state:

"Meetings will be called by the committee chair with frequency being determined by the committee as a whole. Meetings may be in person, teleconference, or online at the discretion of the committee. A quorum of the committee will be at least 50% of the committee's membership."

After some discussion, it was decided that the next few Executive Committee Meeting dates work for Advocacy Committee meetings in the afternoons. April 11th, May 9th, and June 13th at 1 p.m. were chosen for the next 3 in-person meetings.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Stannard to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Chair