



PRL BOARD TALK

Highlights of the Parkland Regional Library Board Meeting

MAY 23, 2019

Audit Report Approved

PRL's audit was presented to the board by Kevin Fergusson from the accounting firm RSM. In the documents provided, the auditors state:

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Parkland Regional Library as at December 31, 2018, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

They did make the recommendation that PRL's Director review general journal entries posted to PRL's accounts on a monthly or quarterly basis. They also made one audit adjustment related to the provincial grant related to our new building fund. To download a copy of the Auditor's Report and Report to the Board, they can be accessed through the following hyperlink:

<http://www.prl.ab.ca/~media/parkland/board-resources/prl-2018-approved-financial-statements.ashx?la=en>

Trustee Orientation

A brief presentation on how public libraries are funded in Alberta was given by Director Ron Sheppard.

Budget 2020

PRL's budget plans for 2020 are still being formulated. The Executive Committee has discussed the development of the 2020 Parkland budget at their last

two meetings. Within the budget, lines with increases really only reflect inflationary costs PRL can't control. Many budget lines remain unchanged between 2019 and 2020.

Staff do not recommend any further reduction to member library materials allotment. The 2020 allotment rate remains at \$1.13 per capita. PRL allotment is the only materials budget that many of PRL's member libraries have.

Work is ongoing. A new budget will be presented to the Executive Committee for review at the June 13th meeting.

Building Update

Parkland staff received a set of blueprints for PRL's new headquarters building from Tricon on March 27th. Staff asked for the "dream building" based on PRL's functional requirements. Unfortunately, it was over 7000 square feet bigger than the original plan.

On April 30th, Parkland staff met with Tricon staff to discuss ideas on how to reduce the cost of the building without negatively affecting functionality. The meeting went very well and Tricon is now working on another set of blueprints.

PRL Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee has met three times, in March, April, and May, in the afternoons following Executive Committee meetings. The committee is chaired by Gord Lawlor with Barb Gilliat serving as Vice-Chair and Janine Stannard as Executive Committee and Board liaison.

The committee identified a couple of strategies to work towards the goal of maintaining stable funding to public libraries as the newly elected government develops their budget. They will send a tailored letter to each MLA in the region with a request for an introductory meeting. Each MLA will be matched with a member of the Advocacy or Executive Committee from that area to attend the meeting along with PRL's Director. In addition, a template letter will be sent to member library boards encouraging them to also send welcome letters to their MLAs and either request an audience or invite the MLA to their library.

The Committee also discussed aligning their activities with province-wide public library advocacy initiatives. At the Alberta Library Conference there was an informal meeting of the 16 public library nodes which led to the

creation of a welcome letter to the new Minister of Municipal Affairs, Kaycee Madu. The draft letter was completed by the Directors of PRL and Yellowhead Regional Library (YRL), signed by all the node library Chairs, and sent to the Minister on May 1st. That letter is attached.

The committee believes it is important for Alberta's public libraries to present a unified message at the provincial level. Since Parkland contributed significant content to the letter to the Minister and since they are already actively developing advocacy plans and tools, they committed to sharing their work and resources with the wider library community. This includes the slogan "Strong Libraries - Strong Communities - Alberta Strong!" Provincial funding is vital to sustaining rural library service and accounts for over 45% of Parkland's budget.

First Nations Update

Last October Parkland agreed to participate in the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) sponsored "Voices of Amiskwaciy" project. This project was supposed to be concluded by the end of March, but an extension was given to June 30th. Training related to the project occurred on April 8 and 9th at Parkland.

It was the intention of this project to share local stories and cultural content through a digital public space. The scope of the project is province-wide and includes representation from Indigenous communities in northern, central, and southern Alberta. The idea is to support local and regional capacity in digital Indigenous story creation.

Outreach to the O'Chiese and Sunchild reserves continues to be a challenge partly due to the distance from Lacombe. However, staff are exploring a couple of options that may include local reserve residents providing the equivalent of a kiosk library service and/or a local public library extending service to reserve residents through contract. In May, at a meeting with the Rocky Mountain House library board, Parkland discussed what role the Rocky Mountain House Library might play in outreach to O'Chiese and Sunchild. They have agreed to act as an interlibrary loan (ILL) pick up and drop off location and will allow use of their collection. Parkland will endeavor to hire a person from one of the reserves who can pick up and drop off ILLs at the library in Rocky

Mountain House and provide a small kiosk service primarily using library materials from Rocky.

PRL is also set to open a semi-permanent library space at Maskwacis in June. This will replace the current "Pop-up" library service.

PRL P.D. Day

At the April 11th Executive Committee Meeting, the committee identified increased trustee education as a need for board members throughout the region. The committee asked if Parkland's Fall Conference/Professional Development Day could contain components that would be useful for trustees. The Workshop is to be held on September 23rd. Virtually the entire agenda is applicable to library board trustees. There is no charge to attend if you are:

- Staff from a member municipality
- A councilor from a member municipality
- A member of the Parkland Board
- A board member from a member library
- Staff from a member library

Online registration will start May 24th. Session details can be viewed at:

<http://support.prl.ab.ca/index.php/event/lets-talk-communication/>

Future PRL Board Meetings

PRL's Advocacy Committee discussed the idea of extending the length of board meetings. The intent was to allow more time for sharing between board members and to provide more professional development opportunities; particularly in the area of advocacy.

An informal vote was taken and the future meetings will be from 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Next Meeting:

September 12, 2019

12:30-3:30 p.m.