



PRL BOARD TALK

Highlights of the Parkland Regional Library Board Meeting SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

Budget 2020

PRL's 2020 budget was approved by the board and will be sent out to the municipalities this week.

Trustee Orientation

A presentation on *Advocacy – A Way of Thinking* was given by Dr. Margaret Law

Building Update

Staff met with Tricon Developments Inc. on August 21, 2019 and approved the initial version of blueprints for the new building.

Staff then went through the Design/Build specifications document provided by Tricon. Some minor suggestions were made (e.g. more concrete/less landscaping, etc.) but we are now at a point where Tricon will develop "permit drawings" for presentation to the City of Lacombe for approval.

PRL will also need a separate purchase agreement for land. This will include an agreement for the sale of the current building to Tricon.

The ground selected for the building is a 1.24 acre lot located on the south-east side of Lacombe just off Hwy 2A. This site has lower land development costs, is serviced by storm drains, and has a lower SuperNet installation cost.

There is some good news about financing. Details will have to be worked out but there may be ways around

having to sell the current headquarters building and rent it back. Staff hope to save between \$100,000 and \$150,000 in building costs.

Donna Williams, Parkland's Manager of Finance and Operations, is applying for two "small stream" Community Facility Enhancement Program grants to try and obtain additional money for enhancements to the new headquarters building.

CloudLinking

In July, Parkland and Yellowhead Regional Library (YRL) decided to participate in cloudLinking. In the collaborative spirit of consortiums and interlibrary loan, cloudLink "links" the eContent from one library's e-collection (hosted on the cloudLibrary application) to the collections of other libraries. YRL is a member of The Regional Automation Consortium (TRAC). TRAC is made up of YRL and the Marigold, Peace and Northern Lights library systems for the purpose of sharing an Integrated Library System (ILS). TRAC uses cloudLibrary. So, by PRL sharing in cloudLinking with YRL, all TRAC libraries now have access to PRL's eBooks and vice versa. From implementation in July to August 27th, TRAC patrons borrowed 764 eBooks from Parkland and Parkland patrons borrowed 810 items from TRAC. Based on the estimated average cost of an eBook, that amounts to a total of over \$47,000 in value of materials circulated.

Advocacy Committee Activity

PRL has been very busy with advocacy related activities.

PRL's Director and Chair met with MLA Jackie Lovey of Camrose on July 10th and MLA Ron Orr from the Lacombe/Ponoka constituency on July 12th. Both meetings went well. The intent of the meeting was to build relationships with MLAs and inform them on how vital the government of Alberta's support is for the sustaining of rural public libraries.

PRL's Executive Committee and Advocacy Committee both wanted PRL board members and staff to visit Parkland's MLAs. Letters congratulating all the MLAs on their election were sent out and a number of visits were scheduled.

On August 12th, PRL's Chair and Director also met with Minister Rick Wilson the MLA for Maskwacis/Wetaskiwin. This meeting was held in conjunction with Hank Smit the Chair of Yellowhead Regional Library (YRL) and Karla Palichuk YRL's Director. The meeting's purpose was the

same as with the other MLAs, however a proposal for restructuring the First Nations grant funding to better serve the indigenous community was also brought forward. The proposal was well received and there may be a follow up meeting with government representatives to explore PRL's and YRL's proposal further.

In July, at the direction of PRL's Advocacy Committee, staff sent a package to all our member libraries and boards that included template letters and speaking notes with the encouragement that they either meet with their local MLAs or invite them to their libraries. The aim was to help build relationships and impress on politicians the importance of public libraries to rural communities.

In early August, a significant amount of time was spent by PRL's Director dealing with Government of Alberta's issuing of 50% bridge funding as a precursor to issuing library operating grants. Many library boards, library staff, and media interpreted the issuing of 50% of the grant as a reduction of the grant. The same situation occurred when the NDP were elected and had no budget until the fall of the year of their election. PRL staff had to send out multiple communications to member libraries and the media to help them understand there was no cause at this point for concern.

Advocacy and Marketing Initiatives

Parkland ran radio advertisements with six stations to promote Library Card Sign Up Month in September. Parkland is also contracting with the marketing firm "topdraw" to work on a social media marketing campaign that includes training in social media marketing for member libraries.

New Auditor

After an RFP process, Parkland is switching to a new auditor – MNP. PRL's former auditor was RSM.

New Financial Institution

Following another RFP process, Parkland has switched from Servus Credit Union to ATB as its financial institution of choice.

Community News from Trustees

Alix Public Library was closed for three weeks with renovations. They thank the Ponoka Jubilee library for the gift of some extra shelves. They re-opened the day of the parade and gained 13 new memberships! Their

official Grand re-opening is on September 21st at 11:00 a.m. with MLA Ron Orr in attendance.

The **Sedgewick & District Municipal Library** bought an Oculus Rift kit and it has been a huge hit with their patrons. They have gained 20 new memberships in the last two weeks from children who line up for their 30-minute turn with the very popular Virtual Reality game.

The **Clive Public Library** hosted a village wide garage sale on Saturday. They made \$1,500.00.

Sylvan Lake Municipal Library hosted a cultural event for Alberta Arts and Culture Days. An Executive Director will be hired soon.

Eckville Municipal Library Helen Posti, the alternate board member from the town of Eckville, presented a certificate in recognition of Parkland Regional Library's 60th Anniversary.

Board Members Present

Debra Smith (Board Chair), Jason Alderson, Jean Bota, Jacqueline Boulet-Boden, Darlene Dushanek, Colleen Ebdon, Kevin Ferguson, Jeanny Fisher, Elaine Fossen, Dwayne Fulton, Sandy Gamble, Bruce Gartside, Barb Gilliat, Robyn Gray, Bob Green, Megan Hanson, Jeanette Herle, Tim Hoven, Rhonda Hunter, Cora Knutson, Stephen Levy, Blair Morton, Ray Olfert, Terilyn Paulgaard, Norma Penney, Rosella Peterman, Heather Ryan, Sharolyn Sanchez, Janine Stannard, Les Stulberg, Sonia Temple, Patricia Toone, Cindy Trautman, Doug Weir, Ann Zacharias

With Regrets

Bill Rock, Gord Lawlor, Bonita Wood, Sharon Williamson

Absent

Jackie AlMBERG, Roger Gaetzman, Donnie Hill, Trudy Kilner, Lonnie Kozlinski, Dana Kreil, Faye Leicht, Angela Lorente, Brenda McDermott, Josephine McKenzie, Leah Nelson, Roger Nichols, Corby Parsons, Gayle Rondeel, Chris Ross, Jeannette Ruud, Leonard Thompson

PRL Staff

Ron Sheppard, Donna Williams, Tim Spark, Colleen Schalm, Jen Kendall, Kara Hamilton

Next Meeting: November 7, 2019, 12:30 PM.