



PRL BOARD TALK

Highlights of the Parkland Regional Library Board Meeting

FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Staff Long Service Awards

Four PRL Staff received long service awards at the February Board meeting.

Russell Adams – 5 years
Steven Dobrowolski – 5 Years
Alida Burnard – 15 years
Sandie Bilik – 15 years

Parkland Regional Library Annual Report

The annual reporting form has been revised from previous years, mostly through the removal of administrative data that the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) is gathering in other ways.

The number of items in the system catalogue remains stable, though there was a small (2%) decrease in material ordered. This demonstrates that libraries rely primarily on their PRL allotment of \$1.13 per capita to purchase new items.

Use of eLibrary collections increased by 37% from 2018, a clear indication that patrons are interested in and taking advantage of increased digital content. Access to eContent was expanded in 2019 through cloudLinking (shared eBooks and eAudio with TRAC libraries) and province-wide eAudio through RBDigital.

While virtual use of the library (visits to library websites and the catalogue) increased by 12%, physical delivery remained consistent, making 2019 the first year PRL did not experience an increase in this area.

With the migration to Polaris, a new Integrated Library System (ILS), Parkland allocated significant staff resources to its implementation and rollout, including 24 of the 40 training sessions provided in 2019.

The Polaris migration provided an opportunity for PRL to establish more accurate and comprehensive data gathering practices. This will help staff better track regional trends over time.

PRL provided training opportunities for trustees and councilors through all four PRL board meetings, one-on-one public library board sessions, five council visits, and a P.D. Day that attracted eleven councilors and thirteen trustees.

The annual report to members will be forthcoming.

Executive & Advocacy Committee Seats

At the November 7, 2019 organizational meeting, one of Parkland's electoral constituencies was left vacant, area #2. Agnes Hoveland, representing the City of Camrose, volunteered to sit on the Executive Committee after the November board meeting. Additionally, Shannon Wilcox volunteered to sit on the Advocacy Committee after the November board meeting. They were both accepted at the board meeting in February.

PRL Strategic Plan

Parkland's Strategic Plan, mission and vision statements drive the allocation of the organization's resources. The 2019-2021 strategic plan has four goals with accompanying outcome-focused objectives, plus a number of responsibilities mandated by the Alberta Libraries Regulation, section 18(3).

Much of the organization's core work supporting member libraries is encompassed in the five mandated functional requirements of region-wide collection management and cataloguing, employing qualified staff, providing information service and programming support, providing appropriate headquarters facilities, and participating in the provincial resource sharing network.

The rest of PRL's work supports the board's strategic plan. Responsibility for some items extends to the PRL board, member library staff, and trustees.

Board Member Attendance Letters

Maintaining municipal engagement and legislative compliance, staff have developed tools to track board member attendance at meetings. This includes letters that will be sent if a board member misses two and/or three meetings in a row. This is to remind municipalities and board members that a board member who misses three consecutive meetings is disqualified and must be reappointed by council.

Advocacy Committee Report

The Advocacy Committee finalized the Return on Investment (ROI) templates, demonstrating financial and other benefits member municipalities receive.

Individual municipal ROI's will be distributed to all member municipalities and member libraries.

A committee member and PRL staff will present an advocacy session on May 29th in Elk Point at the Northern Lights Library System conference.

Building Update

All agreements with Tricon have been signed and the construction of PRL's new headquarters is well underway. \$2.5 million, including the entirety of the Government of Alberta renovation grant, has been transferred to the builder. Based on the construction schedule, PRL plans to move into the new headquarters building in October 2020.

Community News from Trustees

Carstairs Public Library created a giving tree fundraiser for books that raised just over \$700. They put ornaments on the tree representing classic books that they wanted to add to their collection. Donors then selected the book they wanted to donate and either gave cash or brought a new copy of the book to the library. Donors were then able to take the ornaments home.

Bashaw is the most read community in Alberta for the second year running!

Stettler Public Library has partnered with Stettler Learning Centre to offer Conversation Cafés. These help new Canadians develop language skills and learn about local culture. A benefit has been increased use of the library beyond the Conversation Cafés as residents make use of other services.

The library also partners with the Jewel Theatre to screen TIFF films. The films are extremely popular in the

community benefiting both the theatre and the library, which receives some of the revenue.

Lougheed & District Public Library has a fundraiser, using VIP Meats for meat sales. The library passes the list around the community for orders and the meat is delivered to the library. They raised \$4,000 in 2019.

For the August Fair the library booked Malcolm the Magician for the kids during the fair. It was very popular.

Amisk Public Library, the Lutheran church, Village of Amisk, and the MD of Provost are collaborating to provide an arts and culture centre in the church building with more space for programs.

Board Members Present

Debra Smith (Board Chair), Jason Alderson, Glen Carrit, Darlene Dushanek, Colleen Ebdon, Kevin Ferguson, Jeanny Fisher, Elaine Fossen, Dwayne Fulton, Bruce Gartside, Barb Gilliat, Megan Hanson, Jeanette Herle, Agnes Hoveland, Dana Kreil, Faye Leicht, Stephen Levy, Philip Massier, Blair Morton, Leah Nelson, Ray Olfert, Alternate Lana Curle for Rick Pankiw, Alternate Mary Bugbee for Corby Parsons, Norma Penney, Rosella Peterman, Bill Rock, Chris Ross, Heather Ryan, Sharolyn Sanchez, Janine Stannard, Les Stulberg, Patricia Toone, Cindy Trautman, Shannon Wilcox, Sharon Williamson, Bill Windsor, Bonita Wood, Ann Zacharias

With Regrets

Doreen Blumhagen, Douglas Chambers, Sandy Gamble, Cora Knutson, Gord Lawlor, Daryl Lougheed, Terilyn Paulgaard, Sonia Temple, Doug Weir

Absent

Jackie Almborg, Wendy Aschenbrenner, Connie Beringer, Jared Booth, Jacqueline Boulet-Boden, Trudy Kilner, Lonnie Kozlinski, Brenda McDermott, Josephine McKenzie, Roger Nichols

PRL Staff

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

Next Meeting: May 28, 2020, 12:30 PM.

For more information or a copy of the draft minutes from this board meeting, please contact PRL.