



PRLS BOARD TALK

Highlights of the Parkland Regional Library Board Meeting

FEBRUARY 25, 2021

Parkland Annual Report

Despite the many challenges of 2020, with service interruptions and library closures caused by the pandemic, some service highlights are worth mentioning:

- Cardholders system wide are at 31,771
- The total collection in the system catalogue is 680,384
- While total system circulation was down from 2019's 1,312,278, it was still surprisingly high in 2020 at 912,147. This includes 129,254 eBook and eAudiobook circulations
- IT visits, virtual and in person, remained consistent; 2,464 in 2019 and 2,499 in 2020.
- Library consulting visits went up massively. In 2019, consultants made 143 virtual and in-person visits to libraries, while in 2020, there were 472! The vast were virtual
- Parkland consulting staff hosted over 30 virtual meetings with 296 attendees
- Virtual visits to Parkland's website and catalogue were also up slightly to 214,874 from 198,893 in 2019
- Database use increased significantly from 58,486 in 2019 to 79,529 in 2020

Despite being a difficult year, Parkland and public libraries rose to the many challenges they faced. Unlike many other organizations and services that shut down entirely, public libraries adapted and strove to continue answering their communities' need with vital services.

The annual report to members will be forthcoming.

Executive Committee Seat

Jason Alderson, the representative from zone #4, has resigned and is leaving the province. This has created a vacancy on Parkland's Executive Committee that needed to be filled. Len Phillips, representing the Town of Rocky Mtn. House, volunteered to sit on the Executive Committee at the February Board Meeting. Welcome Len!

PRLS Strategic Plan

Parkland's current strategic plan (plan of service) runs through the years 2019 – 2021. Were Parkland to have a new strategic plan produced for 2022 – 2024, 2021 would be the needs assessment and plan development year.

Given the highly irregular nature of library service at present, it is unlikely that a needs assessment undertaken in 2021 would yield accurate information for the upcoming years. What libraries need now is very different from what they will likely need after the pandemic. The board discussed the four goals in the current strategic plan and agreed that they are still relevant. It was also decided to extend Parkland's current strategic plan for one more year, through 2022.

Advocacy Committee Report

The Advocacy Committee has met twice since the last board meeting in November. The focus of these meetings has been to establish priorities for 2021. These include:

1. Continue to educate Parkland's board members and develop advocates on our board.
2. Help library boards to advocate for themselves at their local level.
3. Increase System awareness to member library boards.

In December, the committee began working collaboratively with Yellowhead Regional Library (YRL) on advocacy related tools. This collaboration has been very successful, so much so that YRL will be cooperating in its advocacy efforts with Parkland for the foreseeable future.

Advocacy members also introduced a virtual tour of the new Parkland building which is available to view on our website [here](#).

Stronger Together 2021

Parkland will be collaborating once again with the Alberta Library, (TAL) the Peace Library System, (PLS) and Yellowhead Regional Library, (YRL) to offer a free virtual conference. *Stronger Together* will be held from September 22-24, 2021. More information will be forthcoming.

Community News from Trustees

The cover page of the board meeting package included three questions for the board to consider. Responses to the questions were encouraged during the Parkland Community update.

1. What was the most important thing Parkland did in 2020?

- Moved into a new building after 60 years
- Maintaining van runs for interlibrary loan material
- Parkland continued to prove their value
- Provided tech support to the libraries
- Explored and supported alternative service delivery models
- Parkland continued to stay relevant throughout this pandemic
- Parkland continued to operate and did not shut down in the Pandemic.
- Provided weekly updates and coffee breaks for the libraries
- Held a conference in participation with three other partners
- Parkland Updates were very valuable!

2. What was the most important thing your library did in 2020?

- Sylvan Lake stayed central to the community.
- Libraries learned to adapt!
- Libraries supported and shared the new innovative ways member libraries continued to operate.
- Provided safe contactless services to the public throughout the pandemic.
- We hired a new manager!
- Staying open and finding new ways to deliver services
- Sylvan Lake reaffirmed their importance by being available when many other services could not.
- Stettler Library offered Curbside service, outreach service to senior lodges and colonies,

curbside printing services and partnered to other local organizations like FCSS to offer Activity Kits for seniors.

- Sundre offered Zoom book clubs. They stayed open the whole time, and will probably continue.

3. What is the most important thing that libraries (system or municipal) should do in 2021?

- Continue to grow adapt and advocate!
- Stay open
- Speak up and advocate for libraries' importance.
- Remain flexible
- Being responsive to ever changing needs
- Continue offering the same level of service our libraries expect.
- Find a way to adapt programming to the outdoors
- Provide digital support to the community.
- We expect to continue online programs for those who like them even when in-person meeting is once again allowed
- Didsbury council is considering doubling the footprint of their library

Board Members Present

Debra Smith (Board Chair), Gord Lawlor

Board Members Present via Zoom

Alison Barker-Jevne, Doreen Blumhagen, Colleen Ebdon, Kevin Ferguson, Jeanny Fisher, Elaine Fossen, Dwayne Fulton, Sandy Gamble, Bruce Gartside, Barb Gilliat, Agnes Hoveland, Deborah Juch, Cora Knutson, Daryl Lougheed, Josephine McKenzie, Philip Massier, Ricci Matthews, Marc Mousseau (Alternate for Blair Morton) Ray Olfert, Terilyn Paulgaard, Jas Payne, Norma Penney, Rosella Peterman, Len Phillips, Lori Reid, Bill Rock, Heather Ryan, Janine Stannard, Les Stulberg, Patricia Toone, Cindy Trautman, Doug Weir, Shannon Wilcox, Bill Windsor, Mike Yargeau, Ann Zacharias

With Regrets

Amanda Derksen, Jeanette Herle, Dana Kreil, Leah Nelson, Sharon Williamson, Bonita Wood

Absent

Jackie AlMBERG, Bill Chandler, Clark German, Trudy Kilner, Lonnie Kozlinski, Stephen Levy, Rick Pankiw, Heidi Pierce, Mary Ann Wold

Next Meeting: May 20, 2021, 10:00 AM (Zoom)