



PRLS Board Meeting Minutes September 16, 2021

The regular meeting of the Parkland Regional Library System Board was called to order at 10:07 a.m. on Thursday September 16, 2021 in the Small Board Room, Lacombe.

Present: Debra Smith (Board Chair)

Present via Zoom: Jackie AlMBERG, Alison Barker-Jevne, Doreen Blumhagen, Colleen EbdEN, Kevin Ferguson, Elaine Fossen, Dwayne Fulton, Sandy Gamble, Bruce Gartside, Barb Gilliat, Jeanette Herle, Agnes Hoveland, Deborah Juch, Cora Knutson, Dana Kreil, Gord Lawlor, Daryl Lougheed, Josephine McKenzie, Julie Maplethorpe, Philip Massier, Blair Morton, Leah Nelson, Ray Olfert, Terilyn Paulgaard, Jas Payne, Norma Penney, Rosella Peterman, Len Phillips, Heidi Pierce, Lori Reid, Danny Rieberger, Bill Rock, Janine Stannard, Les Stulberg, Patricia Toone, Cindy Trautman, Doug Weir, Shannon Wilcox, Sharon Williamson, Bill Windsor, Bonita Wood

With Regrets: Heather Ryan, Clark German, Stephen Levy, Mary Ann Wold

Absent: Bill Chandler, Amanda Derksen, Trudy Kilner, Lonnie Kozlinski, Guy Lapointe, Ricci Matthews, Rick Pankiw, Mike Yargeau

Staff: Ron Sheppard, Donna Williams, Colleen Schalm, Tim Spark, Kara Hamilton, Haley Amendt

Guests: Ken Allan from Public Library Services Branch (PLSB)

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Smith.

As part of PRLS' legislative compliance procedures, board members who send regrets are excused at the beginning of each meeting.

Motion by Jeanny Fisher to excuse Mary Ann Wold, Clark German, Heather Ryan, and Stephen Levy from attendance at the board meeting on September 16, 2021 and remain members of the Parkland Board in good standing.

CARRIED
PRLS 30/2021

1.1 Agenda

1.1.2 Adoption of the Agenda

Motion by Barb Gilliat to accept the agenda as presented.

CARRIED
PRLS 31/2021

1.2. Approval of Minutes

Smith asked if there were any amendments to the May 20, 2021 minutes. There were none.

Motion by Bruce Gartside to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2021 meeting as presented/amended.

CARRIED
PRLS 32/2021

1.3. Business arising from the minutes of the May 20, 2021 meeting

Smith asked if there was any business arising from the minutes. There were none.

2.5. Business Arising from the Consent Agenda

Smith asked if there was any business arising from the consent agenda. There was none.

Motion by Gord Lawlor to approve the consent agenda as presented.

CARRIED
PRLS 33/2021

3.1. Public Library Service Branch (PLSB) Update by Ken Allan

The PLSB is currently undertaking an engagement process on potential changes to Alberta library legislation. They started in 2019 and received feedback on some items to clarify, simplify or streamline in the legislation. There were also other issues highlighted that had no clear path to proceed. The PLSB is reaching out again to clarify issues where needed with sessions and a survey. The sessions are being held between September 9th to September 30th. The survey will close on October 8th. All sessions are held via Zoom. Each of the 4 sessions focuses on one of the four topic areas. Each topic has two sessions; one during the day, and one in the evening.

1. Professional librarians – how many librarians are required by legislation
2. Library board governance
3. Library system participation, agreements, and public library network services
4. Intermunicipal Library boards and federation boards

All libraries and municipalities have been invited to participate in the sessions and an online survey. People who have not been invited directly are also welcome to participate.

Ken Allan left the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

3.2. Approval of PRLS Budget 2022

Sheppard reviewed the 2022 Budget. It presents a zero percent increase to the municipalities for the requisition.

Points within the budget to note include:

- There will be no increase to the municipal levy for the third year in a row
- Municipalities will be invoiced based on the Treasury Board figures for 2022
- The provincial operating grant for systems is estimated using 2016 population figures and calculated at the current rate of \$4.70 per capita
- The First Nations Grant is assumed to continue using 2016 population figures, the grant is calculated at \$10.25 per capita

- It is assumed the rural library service grant will also be issued at \$5.55 per capita using 2016 population figures
- Provincial Grants make up 44% of PRLS' income
- Cooperative Collection fund is new to purchase materials for libraries to fill ILL needs outside the system. It can be decreased in the future, if necessary, without impacting other services.
- There will be 2 purchases from reserves, \$162,800 for a server upgrade and computers for libraries and a new cargo van valued at approximately \$33,500
- Parkland saved funds from the cancellation of the Alberta Library Conference. Parkland normally sends several board and staff members to Jasper, AB
- The Return on Municipal Levy shows a 93% return in direct benefits to libraries

No questions were raised by the board about the budget.

Motion by Len Phillips to approve the Parkland Regional Library System 2022 Budget as presented.

CARRIED
PRLS 35/2021

3.3.1. Approval of the Movement of Reserve Funds

Sheppard reviewed. Staff wondered if the finance policy needs to define more clearly who has the right to move reserve funds. In policy 4.4.13 "Finance Fund Accounts", the policy states the: *"Movement of funds to or from fund accounts must be accompanied by a motion or according to policy."* The question was whether policy needs to explicitly state that the movement of funds can occur only by a motion of the Executive Committee or Board? Parkland's Advocacy Committee does make motions but their terms of reference prevent them from making financial decisions. However, what if the Board ever sought to create other committees? Staff have not identified any problems with controls over reserve funds to date, but wish to ensure the Board is confident with the transparency of our processes.

At their meeting held on June 17th, the Executive Committee supported a policy change clarifying who is authorized to move funds to and from Parkland's reserve accounts. The committee recommend that moving reserve funds be limited to the Board and Executive Committee. The words in bold italics are new.

Policy statement 4.4.13 states:

*Movement of funds to or from fund accounts must be accompanied by a motion **from either the Board or Executive Committee**, or according to policy.*

At their meeting on August 19th, the Executive Committee endorsed the change to policy 4.4.13 with the following motion:

Motion by Janine Stannard that the Executive Committee recommend the Board approve the revision to policy 4.4.13 as presented.

CARRIED

Motion by Gord Lawlor to approve the revision of policy 4.4.13 as presented.

CARRIED

PRLS 36/2021

3.3.2. Personnel Policy Revision

Smith reviewed. Policy statement 4.10.2 states:

The Board must be informed of changes to Parkland Regional Library System's organizational chart. The creation of new positions requiring the establishment of new job descriptions or the elimination of positions requiring the deletion of job descriptions must be approved by the Board.

Originally this provision was put in place to ensure the board had control over significant staffing changes at Parkland. However, in an environment of constant change and shrinking budgets, alterations to both Parkland's organizational chart and the creation and deletion of positions is likely to become more frequent as Parkland endeavors to be nimble and responsive to the environment while also facing increasing financial constraints.

The Executive Committee discussed this matter at their August 19th meeting and decided to change policy 4.10.2 with the following motion:

Motion by Cindy Trautman that the Executive Committee recommend to the Board that policy 4.10.2. be amended to: The Board must be informed of changes to Parkland Regional Library's organizational chart.

The Executive Committee believes keeping the board informed of changes to its organizational chart is sufficient to keep the board aware of staffing levels which could affect either service, performance, or the budget.

Motion by Jas Payne to amend policy 4.10.2 to read "The Board must be informed of all changes to Parkland Regional Library System's organizational chart."

CARRIED

PRLS 37/2021

3.4. Advocacy Committee Report

Gord Lawlor gave a verbal report on the Advocacy Committee and thanked the board for their service to Parkland over the last several years. The committee has been collaborating with Yellowhead Regional Library this last year, and it has been a fruitful union. Some tools that have come out of their work this year are:

- A welcome package for all councillors elected in October
- Return on Municipal Levy that complements the Municipal Return on Investment
- A guide to appointing a Trustee for the Parkland Board

Janine Stannard gave a verbal report about the last year's advocacy activity. A video was shared about the advocacy committee's activities.

Motion by Cindy Trautman to receive for information

CARRIED

PRLS 38/2021

3.5. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Sheppard shared that the Government of Canada recently passed a bill creating the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a new statutory holiday to commemorate the legacy of residential schools in Canada. The bill creates a statutory holiday for employees in the federal government and federally-regulated workplaces. This holiday will be observed on September 30th of each calendar year, beginning this month.

The Government of Alberta has no imminent plans to add this holiday to the Employment Standards Code, and as such, this is currently not considered a general holiday in Alberta. However, employers including library boards may choose to recognize this holiday. This year Parkland will likely remain open. Part of what informed our decision was whether our libraries remained open and so far 16 libraries will be closed on September 30th, although 7 of that number would have been closed anyway. This matter will be reviewed next year.

Motion by Barb Gilliat to receive for information.

CARRIED

PRLS 39/2021

3.6. OverDrive and eSharing eResources

Sheppard explained. Since 2019, Parkland has been sharing eBooks and eAudio books from its CloudLibrary Collection with the four library systems that make up The Regional Automation Consortium (TRAC). This ability to “interlibrary loan” eContent has saved countless dollars and proved to be a hugely beneficial service to library patrons.

Following on this success, Parkland has entered another agreement with both TRAC and Edmonton Public Library (EPL) to share the eBooks and eAudio books available on our other major eContent platform OverDrive. Calgary Public Library is also possibly joining.

There will be no cost for this service. OverDrive has long been considered to be the premier eContent provider, so not only will this partnership be of tremendous financial value and improve service, it also demonstrates to funders how public libraries are always seeking to leverage partnerships for the purposes of efficiency and sustainability.

Motion by Janine Stannard to receive for information.

CARRIED

PRLS 40/2021

3.7. Parkland Art Appraisal

Sheppard shared that Parkland has accumulated many pieces of art over the last thirty years as gifts. Prior to the move to the new facility, the Director undertook some cursory research and determined the art work might be quite valuable. At very least, it needs to be appraised for insurance purposes.

Staff sought to find a reputable appraiser and received some recommendations from our legal firm in Red Deer, Chapman Riebeck. Using their recommendations, staff contacted the appraisers and selected the Willock and Sax Gallery located in Banff as the best balance between cost, thoroughness, and timeliness. To save money, staff have sent pictures of Parkland's artwork along with details related to their production to the gallery to avoid the costs associated with an assessor travelling to Parkland. The assessment should be completed by the end of September.

Motion by Gord Lawlor to receive for information.

CARRIED
PRLS 41/2021

3.8. November Board Meeting

Smith spoke to the November board meeting. With the recent restrictions it will have to be seen if we are able to have our November meeting in person. The meeting will most likely have to be virtual.

Sheppard asked, if there were no restrictions, would the board prefer an in-person meeting, or a virtual meeting? A poll was created, asking if board members preferred in person or virtual meetings. The general consensus was that the organizational meeting should be in person if at all possible, but that the other meetings could be virtual. The other thought was that the winter meetings should be virtual to cut down on driving time, and the summer meetings could be in person.

It was brought up that the AUMA conference is on November 17-19, which interferes with the date for the November board meeting on the 18th. Staff may need to change the date of the November organizational meeting.

Staff will send a survey regarding in-person meetings vs. virtual meetings once the new board is formed in November.

Doreen Blumhagen left the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

3.9.1. Director's Report

3.9.2. Library Services Report

3.9.3. IT Report

3.9.4. Marketing Report

Smith asked if there were any questions regarding the Director's, Library Services, IT, or Marketing reports. There were none.

Motion by Gord Lawlor to receive the Director's, Library Services, IT, and Marketing Reports for information.

CARRIED
PRLS 42/2021

3.10. Parkland Community Update

Smith announced that Colleen Schalm is retiring from Library Services after 20 years and will be moving to British Columbia. On behalf of Parkland she thanked Colleen for her service and wished her well in her new life.

4. Adjournment

Motion by Janine Stannard to adjourn the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

CARRIED

PRL 43/2021

Meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Chair

DRAFT