



MINUTES

Rocky Mountain House Library Board Wednesday, February 25, 2026 7pm Library Meeting Room and Zoom

Present: Ben Worth, Lori Pratt, Karen Travis, Elyse Morin, Tyler McCauley,
Lynda Huseby

Via Zoom: Denise Boniface, Lori Sunde-Cooper

Absent: Mimi Cole

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lori Pratt on Wednesday,
February 25, 2026 at 7:04 pm.

Karen Travis was appointed as recorder for the meeting in lieu of Secretary
Lori Sunde-Cooper.

1.1 Agenda and Minutes

1.1.1 Additions/changes to the agenda: none

1.1.2 Motion #831 Elyse moved to adopt the agenda for tonight's meeting.
Seconded by Lynda. **CARRIED**

1.1.3 Chair Lori asked if there were any questions about the January
meeting minutes. Karen enquired as to the amount of the donation
by the Helen Hunley Foundation. The amount was \$60,000.

Motion #832 Tyler moved to adopt the January 28, 2026 meeting
minutes. Seconded by Karen. **CARRIED**



2. ITEMS FOR DECISION

2.1 Financial Report: Ben presented the financial report. He noted the Helen Hunley Foundation donation has been deposited into the operating fund until it can be invested. He explained why funds seem to be front loaded more in January than in the overall budget for some items. The library is purchasing some Yoto Cards, which are a type of audio-book for children, along with a player. Tyler commented on the likelihood of insurance premiums going up in the future.

Motion #833 Tyler moved to accept the financial report as presented. Seconded by Lynda. **CARRIED**

2.2 Term deposits/reserve funds: The board would like to look at ways to make reserve funds more accessible in case of financial emergency. One of the current term deposits matures next year and the other the year after. Lori and Ben prepared a chart comparing what various financial institutions offer for interest rates. The current rates are poor, not keeping up with inflation. Our funds are locked in at higher rates so there is time to investigate other options. This item will be tabled until other options can be pursued. Interest rates will continue to be monitored. No decision is required at this time.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 Advocacy Committee Report: Karen provided an update on the two initiatives the committee is working on. For the Plan of Service, we are reviewing the responses to the Community Needs Survey that was



that this is a strategic planning document that we are legally required to prepare. It is also an important tool to ensure board decision-making and library service aligns with local needs. The format of the document will be the same as the 2021-2025 Plan of Service. The committee came up with a timeline to complete, with a final plan ready for approval at the May board meeting. For the Friends of the Library initiative, Ben has received the bylaw documents required to establish it. He will get the necessary signatures and then file it with Alberta Registries, along with a \$50 registration fee. The board provided several suggestions for a commissioner of oath to witness the signing. Once the paperwork is done and a new executive is in place, active recruitment can begin.

4. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

4.1 Library Manager's Report: The board reviewed Ben's report. Karen asked if the library is participating in roadside cleanup this year. Ben said he will apply for one section. Elyse suggested checking with the school division for NVCI training. Lynda asked if the board could be included if training happens. For the month of March, Pub Trivia night will be on the same evening as our board meeting.

4.2 Library usage stats to the end of January 2026: There was a decrease in the number of items borrowed and program participants in January compared to previous years.



6. **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION:** Tyler said the Clearwater County Library Board is undergoing training to learn their roles as trustees. Discussion of creating an inter-municipal library board is postponed. Elyse mentioned that government direction could be coming to expand censorship of materials in public libraries. Karen listened to a discussion on the impact of AI on libraries. The podcast is available at CBC The Current, August 22, 2025. Lori noticed that financial literacy is lacking in the community. This could be a good library program. Ben reported that a formal coalition of public libraries has formed, is meeting with DM's, and is preparing an advocacy plan in response to proposed book bans.

7. **NEXT MEETING:** March 25, 2026 7 pm

8. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion #834 Lynda moved to adjourn at 8:09 pm. Seconded by Karen.
CARRIED