

Box 1497, 4922-52 Street
Rocky Mountain House, AB
T4T 1B1
Phone: (403)845-2042
Fax: (403)845-5633
armh@prl.ab.ca
rmhlibrary.prl.ab.ca

Rocky Public Library



MINUTES

Rocky Mountain House Library Board Wednesday, September 23, 2026 7pm Library Meeting Room

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

Absent: Denise Boniface, Mimi Cole

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lori Pratt on Wednesday, September 21, 2026 at 7:01 pm.

1.1 Agenda and Minutes

1.1.1 Additions/changes to the agenda: 2.4 RDP Session

Motion #855 Tyler moved to adopt the agenda for tonight's meeting.

Seconded by Elyse. **CARRIED**

1.1.2 Chair Lori asked if there were any changes for the June meeting minutes.

There were none.

Motion #856 Tyler moved to adopt the June 24, 2026 meeting minutes.

Seconded by Karen. **CARRIED**

2. ITEMS FOR DECISION

2.1 Financial Report: Ben presented the financial report. Provincial Grant has been received. Employment grant will be coming. Lori SC asked about the increase in the Provincial Grant compared to budget and Ben advised the Provincial Grant was consistent since 2023; the increase was due to updated census information.

Motion #857 Lynda moved to accept the financial report as presented.

Seconded by Elyse. **CARRIED**

2.2 Library 2027 budget: A draft budget was distributed prior to the meeting. Ben presented an adjusted budget due to the Provincial Operating Grant and recent staffing adjustments. Karen asked about the Health Spending Account; Ben advised that this has



been transferred into the Employee Wellness Program. Ben highlighted changes to Material Acquisitions and Administration; there was discussion regarding the POS fees. Ben will prepare and present a Return on Investment document and a cover letter with the budget to the Town and County; Lori P suggested we ask to present the budget to the County Council on October 13, 2026.

Motion #858 Lynda moved to adopt the 2027 budget as presented for submission to Councils. Seconded by Elyse. **CARRIED**

2.3 Additional trustee online transaction approval authority: Ben advised there are 4 people with signing authority and Mimi is the only trustee with access for online transactions. Ben suggested setting up online access for Lynda and Karen.

Motion #859 Elyse moved to add Lynda and Karen as additional online transaction approval authorities. Seconded by Tyler. **CARRIED**

2.4 RDP Session: Ben advised of an upcoming presentation "Freedom to Read and Book Banning" on October 28. As this is meeting date, no board members will be able to attend.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 Bill 28 - regulations and local impact: Ben advised that draft regulations were provided in the summer and a final version was sent out yesterday. Scope of the regulations is specific. Based on that scope, a few items in the collection may qualify in the area of adult and teen graphic novels. By January, the Board will need to have a Policy in place; Parkland Library will provide a template. Parkland Library will set up a Junior account with Parental Consent and without Parental Consent; by default, accounts may be set up as with Consent. Parkland Library will set up protocols for online access. Ben advised that at this time, there should be minimal impact to the collection and library services.

Board discussion: Elyse advised that Beaumont Library shut down for a week to re-arrange due to Bill 28 and regulations; there was negative feedback from the public. Karen suggested promoting the polling results which demonstrate the public perception of Libraries in Alberta.

Parkland Library is hosting webinars to share information on October 5 and 6, 2026. Ben



will forward the invite to the Board members.

Ben will bring more information next month and arrange a Policy Committee meeting once templates are available.

3.2 Library Manager annual performance appraisal: Ben's work anniversary is November 2nd. Personnel Committee (Elyse - Lead, Lori P., Lori SC, Mimi) will prepare and present at the October Board meeting. Appraisal includes Board and staff input.

3.3 Reserve Funds investment options: Lynda emailed companies where information had not been previously obtained and had responses from 2 companies.

3.4 Parkland Library Conference learnings: Karen shared that there was a keynote speaker and breakout sessions. Connor Keer keynote, an author, had interesting information. AI Psychosis with a speaker from Norwest College who discussed usage for information but warnings of using it for personal queries and emotional support; provided solutions to divide between professional and personal use of AI, education, and strengthening community ties. Networking event was in the library with questions on the wall to start conversations. Putting the Patron First - Rethinking Collection Organization at any Scale presented by Carstairs and Didsbury; provided options/steps to make changes.

Ben attended Neutral Ground by a librarian with Legislative Assembly and how to provide information without judgement and assumptions. When You Become a Political Talking Point with a representative from Queer Neighbours Society of Red Deer who discussed legislation changes and impact on schools and communities.

Karen encouraged other Board members to attend in the future.

3.5 Upcoming Events:

- Pub Trivia: Wednesday, Oct 21 and November 18th; will survey participants if they want a December trivia on the 16th and appetite for a pricing increase.
- Stronger Together Conference: Oct 20 & 21. Lynda and Taylor are registered.



4. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

4.1 Library Manager's Report: Ben's report was distributed with meeting materials. Ben highlighted Summer Reading Club, staff adjustments, and Showcase Cinema.

Library usage stats to the end of August 2026: Stats were distributed with meeting materials. Ben spoke to circulation numbers being slightly lower than last year and good programming attendance. Karen suggested removing the 2019 column in the spreadsheet.

5. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

6. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION:

Elyse & Karen - Red Deer Library is showing The Librarians documentary on Thursday October 1st at Downtown branch with 2 show times: 2-3:30 with 3:45-4:45 panel discussion; 6:00 pm

Tyler - County had its Strategic Planning Session. Budget meetings will be Dec 8-11th.

Lynda - Might not be able to attend the next meeting

Lori SC - Shared information about a local children's author - Dianne Koebel-Pede

Ben - Shared an article about the Town's bid for a new multiplex and consideration for a library to be included. Board members discussed other towns with libraries in multiplexes.

7. NEXT MEETING: October 28, 2026 7 pm

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion #860 Elyse moved to adjourn at 8:37 pm. Seconded by Lynda.

CARRIED