



PRLS Board Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2026

The regular meeting of the Parkland Regional Library System Board was called to order at 10:06 a.m. on Thursday May 21, 2026 in the Combined Board Room, Lacombe.

Present: Janet Adam, Jackie Almberg, Denise Boniface, Laureen Clarke-Rennie, Curtis Cook, Shelley Cook, Teresa Cunningham, Sarah Fahey, Richard Forsberg, Elaine Fossen, Shaleah Fox, Dwayne Fulton, Dustin Gillespie, Barb Gilliat, Matthew Goudy, Pam Hansen, Lindsay Holmen, Haley Amendt alt. for Joe Iwanicki, Dana Kreil, Troy Lambert, Hazen Letwin, Lori Lindseth, Julie Maplethorpe, Lyle McKellar, Joy-Anne Murphy, Scott Pfeiffer, Bill Rock, Matthew Sumegi, Leona Thorogood, Cory Twerdoclib, Carla Lloyd alt. for Teri Underhill, Carlene Wetthuhn, Shannon Wilcox, Stephen Wyse

Guests: Lindsey Bauman MNP, Erin Moir MNP

With Regrets: Delijiah Antaloczy, Skyla Attfield, Alison Barker-Jevne, Lana Curle, Todd Dalke, Kathy Hall, Ryanna Hansen, Bryce Liddle, Ricci Matthews, Leah Nelson, Cindy Orom, Maxine Steil

Absent: Les Fee, Kimberlee Hunter, Victor Kelly, Paul Looser, Darryl Motley, Marc Mousseau, Amanda Peffers, Sandy Shipton, Naomi Tercier

Staff: Karyn Goodwillie, Hailey Halberg, Kara Hamilton, Paige Mueller, Andrea Newland, Valerie Schellenberg, Ron Sheppard, Tim Spark

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Barb Gilliat. Gilliat reviewed the ground rules of the meeting. Parkland staff introduced themselves.

Agenda

1.1.2 Adoption of the Agenda

Motion by Shannon Wilcox to accept the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

PRLS 14/2026

1.2. Approval of Minutes

Gilliat asked if there were any amendments to the February 26, 2026 minutes. There were none.



Motion by Carlene Wetthuhn to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2026 meeting as presented.

CARRIED
PRLS 15/2026

1.3. Business arising from the minutes of the February 26, 2026 meeting

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

2. Business Arising from the Consent Agenda

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

Motion by Sarah Fahey to approve the consent agenda as presented.

CARRIED
PRLS 16/2026

3.1 2025 Parkland Audit

Lindsey Bauman and Erin Moir from MNP reviewed the 2025 Parkland audit. They stated that;

"In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Library as at December 31, 2025, and the results of its operations net financial assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards."

According to policy 2.6.10, the Executive Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving Parkland's audit which they did at their March 20th meeting.

Motion by Dana Kreil to receive for information the Parkland Regional Library Board 2025 Audit Findings Report for December 31, 2025 and the Financial Statements for December 31, 2025 as presented.

CARRIED
PRLS 17/2026

Erin Moir and Lindsey Bauman left the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

Leona Thorogood entered the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

3.2 PD Session – Parkland and Library Funding

Sheppard reviewed Parkland and Library funding. Karyn Goodwillie reviewed eContent costs and restrictions.

Motion by Scott Pfeiffer to accept the PD Session for information.

CARRIED
PRLS 18/2026



3.3 Parkland's 2027 Budget

Sheppard reviewed two of Parkland's proposed 2027 budget scenarios.

They have one difference between them. In one scenario, the budget provides all eligible staff a step up the salary grid in compliance with Parkland policy. In the other scenario, staff are provided a step and optional cost of living adjustment (COLA). COLA is calculated on a five-year blended average based on the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), as reported by Statistics Canada, for 12 months ending January 31 for the year previous to the budget year. COLA is currently calculated at 3.5% with steps on the grid equaling approximately 2.5%.

Despite significant advocacy efforts, there is little chance of an increase in funding from the provincial government.

At their April 23rd meeting, the Executive Committee requested a budget scenario where the requisition will be maintained at its current level of \$9.99 for 2027. To do this, it will be necessary to cut \$48,475 from Parkland's budget. Staff are working on scenarios in which services or products are reduced or eliminated to bring back to the Executive Committee for their consideration at their June meeting.

After a lively discussion, the board asked to see three budget scenarios, low, medium, and high, with a recommendation from the Executive Committee, with the intention of building up reserves for capital purchases and to cover amortization costs, which are not budgeted for, and must be taken from reserves.

Motion by Matt Goudy to build a 2027 budget that addresses reserve levels, capital purchases, and amortization costs.

CARRIED

PRLS 19/2026

Matt Goudy left the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

3.4 CAP Libraries

Sheppard reviewed. Parkland, along with all the major public libraries in Alberta, continues to lobby for increased funding for libraries. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, no increase in library operating grants will be forthcoming in the Government of Alberta's (GOA) 2026-2027 budget. Notwithstanding this fact, Parkland and the other major libraries in Alberta will keep trying to persuade the GOA to provide more operational funding to library boards and an improved grant structure.

While Alberta's major public libraries are attempting to obtain additional funding, work continues to dissuade the GOA from involving itself in the curation of public library collections.



Concerningly, the Omnibus Bill 28 was passed on May 13th and includes provisions granting the Minister responsible for public libraries sweeping powers of inspection. The intent of this legislation is to keep materials that are considered to be pornographic unavailable to minors without some form of age verification or parental consent for patrons under 16 years of age. One of the problems with this scenario is that determining what is “pornographic” is highly subjective.

Public libraries across Alberta have expressed concerns about being able to meet potential new requirements. For example, libraries have identified significant cost pressures, including the construction of physically separate spaces, additional staffing to mediate access and verify age, and uncertainty related to an inspection regime that has not yet been fully defined.

The Minister has indicated these costs will not be funded by the province, leaving municipalities to absorb them; an expectation many may not be able to meet.

Concerns over Bill 28 have led to the development of the Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries (CAP Libraries). Collectively, this group represents 324 service points across Alberta, serving 99% of Albertans. Its membership includes libraries of all sizes and from every region of the province, including Alberta’s seven regional systems. CAP has a steering committee of four which include:

Pilar Martinez, CEO Edmonton Public Library

Sarah Meilleur, CEO Calgary Public Library

Ronald Sheppard, Director Parkland Regional Library System

Sharon Siga, CEO Strathcona County Library

Sheppard and Martinez were selected to be the principal media contacts for CAP.

After some discussion, the board agreed that they should support CAP in relation to their advocacy efforts regarding Bill 28.

Motion by Leona Thorogood that the Parkland Library Board advocate with CAP in relation to Bill 28 to determine financial and operational costs of the bill.

CARRIED

PRLS 20/2026

3.5 Policy Revision

Sheppard reviewed. While Parkland’s Cost of Living and Compensation policy states explicitly that when considering a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to salaries, Parkland staff use *“the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), as reported by Statistics Canada...”*, the policy did not state that the calculations are based on the CPI specifically for Alberta. Since it has always been Parkland’s practice to use the CPI for Alberta when calculating COLA, staff advised adding wording to the policy to clarify that point.



At their April 23rd meeting, the Executive Committee passed a motion recommending the board approve the policy as amended.

Motion by Joy-Anne Murphy to approve the Cost of Living and Compensation Policy as amended.

CARRIED

PRLS 21/2026

Teresa Cunningham left the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

3.6 Parkland Investments

Sheppard reviewed Parkland's investment portfolio. According to Parkland's Annual Agenda policy, the Executive Committee is to review Parkland's investments at least twice a year.

Given the current uncertainties of the global economy, staff recommended making no change to Parkland's overall investment strategy of keeping funds in a conservative, managed bond portfolio.

PRLS does not currently have funds invested in GICs.

After reviewing Parkland's investments at their April 23rd meeting, the Executive Committee decided to leave Parkland's investment strategy unchanged.

Motion by Shaleah Fox to receive for information.

CARRIED

PRLS 22/2026

3.7.1. Director's Report

3.7.2. Deputy Director's Report

3.7.3. IT Report

3.7.4. Finance & Operations Report

3.7.5. Marketing Report

Sheppard asked if there were any questions about the reports. There were none.

Motion by Janet Adam to receive the Director and Deputy Director's Reports, IT Report, Finance & Operations Report and Marketing Report for information.

CARRIED

PRLS 23/2026

3.8. Parkland Community Update

The Alberta Library Trustees' Association (ALTA) has three years of the Lorne McRae Intellectual Freedom Fund bursary to give out. The bursary is awarded to a person or organization who exemplifies the values and beliefs of Lorne MacRae and encourages,



enlightens, and empowers the importance of Intellectual Freedom. See the application form here: <https://forms.gle/3JKaAH7G89fq1PZg6>

Sylvan Lake Municipal Library is undergoing an organizational review and considering investing in a new building in the next 5 years. They have also recently installed security cameras.

Cremona Municipal Library is celebrating their 55th anniversary on July first. For the 55 days prior to their celebration, they are posting positivity regarding the public library each day on social media.

Join the fellowship of the **Camrose Public Library** and the Chester Ronning Centre for an evening of film and conversation focused on the challenges facing public libraries and how we can support them in Alberta.

The event will feature a screening of [*The Librarians*](#), and a panel discussion with Kerri Danner and Alyssa Martin, moderated by Joseph Wiebe.

4. **Adjournment**

Motion by Leona Thorogood to adjourn the meeting at 12:17 p.m.

CARRIED

PRLS 24/202

Chair