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# PRLS BOARD TALK

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## Highlights of the Parkland Regional Library Board Meeting

NOVEMBER 17, 2022

### Organizational Meeting

Parkland's board has approximately eight new members. Board members in attendance elected the new Executive Committee and a brand-new Board Chair. Welcome Teresa Rilling!

### Executive Committee

The Executive Committee has several new faces, along with returning members. Welcome!

**Teresa Rilling** - Town of Sylvan Lake (Committee Chair)

**Joy-Anne Murphy** – City of Camrose

**Deb Coombs** – Town of Bowden

**Len Phillips** – Town of Rocky Mtn. House

**Jamie Coston** – Town of Rimbey

**Norma Penney** – Village of Clive

**Barb Gilliat** – Village of Alix

**Debra Smith** – Village of Loughheed

**Shannon Wilcox** – Town of Carstairs

**Janice Wing** – Town of Innisfail

### Budget 2023

The Parkland budget has been approved by 76.56% of the municipalities representing 71.22% of the population, with five municipalities declining.

### Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee continues to enthusiastically serve PRLS. The volunteers for the Advocacy Committee for 2023 are:

**Jul Bissell** – Village of Elnora

**Deb Coombs** – Town of Bowden

**Teresa Cunningham** – Town of Penhold

**Barb Gilliat** – Village of Alix

**Gord Lawlor** -Town of Stettler

**Stephen Levy** – Village of Sedgewick

**Joyce McCoy** – Town of Didsbury

**Shawn Peach** – Town of Castor

**Norma Penney** – Village of Clive

**Debra Smith** – Village of Loughheed

**Teresa Rilling** – Town of Sylvan Lake (ex-officio)

### Board Meeting Dates for 2023

Parkland will be holding board meetings virtually in November and February, with the May and September meetings held in person at headquarters. Board meeting dates are subject to change, but are set as follows:

- **February 23** - Annual Report, Year in Review
- **May 18** - 2022 Financial Statements presented
- **September 14** - Budget presentation for 2024
- **November 16** - Organizational Meeting

### Strategic Plan Update

In addition to three focus group sessions held by Shari Hansen, Parkland conducted a system services survey, examined plans of service for our libraries, and examined the strategic plans, where available, of our member municipalities. After all the analysis and investigation, the new strategic plan is strikingly similar to the last ones.

The new strategic plan has been approved by the board and is effective from 2023-2025.

### Board Meetings, Virtual or in-Person?

Parkland staff sent out a survey to board members to measure their appetite for in-person board meetings in 2023. After some discussion, the Executive Committee recommended holding the November and February meetings virtually, and the May and September meetings in-person. This would avoid requiring board members to travel during poor weather.

### Systems Advocacy Committee

Normally, Parkland's Advocacy Committee would have met once in October between the September and November board meetings. This meeting was cancelled to accommodate a meeting of the seven library systems to discuss a provincial advocacy strategy. The meeting occurred on October 13<sup>th</sup> and was co-chaired by PRLS Board Chair Deb Smith and YRL Board Chair Hank Smit.

The seven systems are asking the provincial government for:

- An immediate increase in the per capita rate for funding
- Updated population figures for issuing grants and increase the base (minimum) rate for libraries serving smaller populations
- A commitment to look at COLA for library grants annually. Recently, the Government of British Columbia agreed in principle to do so.

Subsequent to the systems meeting, a joint letter has been sent to Minister Rebecca Schulz with a specific funding request. Welcome letters for the new premier and Minister of Municipal Affairs have also been sent. For the welcome letters only Parkland and Yellowhead Regional Library agreed to a joint letter.

## Marketing and Advocacy Report

In September, Parkland delivered three advocacy workshops in Lougheed, Lacombe, and Olds. The workshops had 52 attendees total who learned about their role in advocacy and steps to create an advocacy plan for their library. The training was directed towards library and Parkland board members and library staff. Parkland has since solicited feedback from attendees and received positive reviews.

To celebrate Canadian Library Month, Parkland organized both a public and internal contest for the month of October for the second year. There were seven prizes for patrons including Google Play gift cards, Bluetooth Headphones, and a Galaxy A7 Tablet. Prizes were distributed to patrons at the libraries in Sundre, Cremona, Water Valley, Penhold, Blackfalds, and Donald. The library that signed on the most new members per capita was Bashaw Municipal library, getting 77 new members (3.25% of their population)! They have chosen to hold a magic show paid for by Parkland at their library as their prize.

## Committee News from Trustees

**Sedgewick & District Municipal Library** is excited to hold the grand opening of their new library building on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Carstairs Public Library** are partnering with the local high school and area FRN to offer free weekly tutoring for students K to 12. Also, Bob Green, a longtime advocate and board member, and past counsellor, has

stepped down as of November from our local board to enjoy family time and retirement.

**Innisfail Public Library** has a new Board Chair

**Penhold & District Public Library's** manager won the QE2 Queen's Platinum Jubilee award. Their library also won the Minister's award. Also, one of their students won the golden ticket!

**Hardisty Public Library** has been working on wheelchair access to their facility.

**Stettler Public Library** gave a shout out to Parkland staff who all go above and beyond.

**Delburne Municipal Library** held a joint meeting of their library board and friends' group with Ron Sheppard, who talked about the roles and responsibilities of the two groups. The library is also sponsoring a gingerbread house contest on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Penhold & District Public Library** is holding their community Christmas celebration on November 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Board Members Present

Debra Smith (Board Chair), Gord Lawlor, Ray Reckseidler, **(Zoom)** Alison Barker-Jevne, Jul Bissell, Deb Coombes, Jaime Coston, Edna Coulter, Teresa Cunningham, Cal David, Jeff Eckstrand, Dwayne Fulton, Barb Gilliat, Pam Hansen, Cody Hillmer, Connie Huelsman, Dana Kreil, Stephen Levy, Julie Maplethorpe, Ricci Matthews, Joyce McCoy, Shawn Peach, Norma Penney, Leonard Phillips, Lori Reid, Teresa Rilling, Sandy Shipton, Justin Stevens (alt. for Les Stulberg), Michelle Swanson, Delaney Thoreson, Patricia Toone, Carlene Wetthuhn, Shannon Wilcox, Darren Wilson, Janice Wing, Patricia Young, (Guest) Donna Engel

## With Regrets

Elaine Fossen, Barbara Gibson, Marc Mousseau, Joy-Anne Murphy, Bill Rock, Diane Roth and Jackie Northey

## Absent

Doug Booker, Amanda Derksen, Clark German, Michael Hildebrandt, Guy Lapointe, Darryl Motley, Doug Weir

## Next Meeting: February 23, 2023 (Zoom)

For more information, or if you want a copy of the draft minutes from this board meeting, please contact PRLS.