



PRLS BOARD TALK

Highlights of the Parkland Regional Library Board Meeting

FEBRUARY 23, 2023

Parkland Annual Report

Each year Parkland is required to submit an annual report to the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) at Municipal Affairs. System wide statistics indicate a return to pre-COVID levels of service. In 2022, many performance indicators were up.

Circulation - 1,256,988
Interlibrary loans - 23,757
WIFI Usage - 1,646,392
Van Run volume - 883,300 items
Collection size - 678,471
Cardholders - 38,366

An annual report infographic with more highlights from 2022 will be prepared and distributed to member municipalities in the coming weeks.

Outlet Annual Reports

The Parkland Board is the governing board for four library service points. They are:

Brownfield Community Library – County of Paintearth

Nordegg Public Library – Clearwater County

Spruce View Community Library – Red Deer County

Water Valley Public Library – Mountain View County

Highlights from their annual reports are included below:

Brownfield Community Library Accomplishments

They had over 2,500 people visit the library this year. They were also pleased to have 10 volunteers involved in various library services and events. The library was closed for approximately two weeks in June as the library received some much-needed renovations and re-painting.

Nordegg Public Library Accomplishments

They were happy to be open 12 hours per week over 4 different days. They now have 12 volunteers helping run services in Nordegg. The library manager position is still vacant and they are looking forward to filling this position.

Spruce View Community Library Accomplishments

Their *1,000 Books Before Kindergarten* is still going strong with about 38 kids participating, and they have 10 children who have reached 1,000 books already! They are also partnering with the Innisfail and Area Family Resource Centre to bring an early literacy program to their library, which is very well attended.

Water Valley Public Library Accomplishments

The Water Valley Public Library and the local area has really grown in the last year. This year, the library has really been focusing on expanding their program offerings. They currently offer four full time children's programs, two regular adult program offerings, as well as additional programs being added as a one off.

Population Figures and the Parkland Master Agreement

Board members Joy-Anne Murphy and Shannon Wilcox presented the request to the board from seven municipalities to amend Article 8.3 regarding population estimates and which figures are to be used for Parkland's invoicing to the member municipalities. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was put forward to amend the agreement. The motion was defeated and letters will be sent in reply to the seven municipalities that sent requests for the Parkland Membership Agreement to be amended.

Advocacy Committee

Despite only meeting twice since the November board meeting, Parkland's Advocacy Committee has accomplished much.

Gord Lawlor was re-elected as committee Chair and Norma Penney was re-appointed Vice-Chair.

The Advocacy Committee decided to carry over its workplan goals from 2022 through 2023. These goals are:

1. Positioning libraries to emerge advantageously following the upcoming provincial election (May 2023)

2. Advocating for increased library funding from the Government of Alberta
3. Assisting libraries with the marketing of their services
4. The creation of a provincially unified, ongoing voice for public libraries
5. To continue to focus on advocacy to the system board
6. To continue to help libraries and library boards advocate for themselves at the local level

Given that library funding remains a major issue, keeping the goals from 2022 seemed logical since a provincial election is anticipated this spring.

As for the provincial election, in fulfillment of one of our six advocacy goals, Parkland and Yellowhead Regional Library (YRL) have been successful in creating a provincially unified, ongoing voice for public libraries by creating an Advocacy Committee of the seven library systems.

Website Refresh Project

On January 12, 2022, Parkland headquarters experienced a network compromise and the point-of-entry identified was through Parkland's website server, which was corrected. While a website refresh project had already been discussed internally, the network compromise forced the fact that staff need to update Parkland's existing Sitecore infrastructure.

Staff requested and were granted up to \$200,000 from the technology reserve to fund the Website Refresh Project based on the existing Sitecore license using Fishtank as the website developer.

Parkland and Parkland Outlet Bylaw Revisions

Parkland needed to revise a number of its bylaws related to in-house collections. All references to loan periods and fines have been removed from the Parkland Bylaws.

In addition, Parkland's Outlet bylaws were amended with regards to fees and fines, borrowing periods, and borrowing periods suspension or forfeiture.

ALTA Representative

Former Parkland board member, Bob Green, has stated his intention to step down from his long-time role as ALTA board member and Area 3 representative. He will be done in the Spring of 2023. Please consider whether

you would like to take his place as the ALTA Representative for Parkland.

Committee News from Trustees

Camrose Public Library has a new interim Director covering for a maternity leave. Also, the library did not have the funding to continue to open on Sundays, so a community member made a generous donation covering the cost of opening on Sundays for the next year.

Bashaw Municipal Library won the *Most Readerly Community* once again!

Carstairs Public Library has created an excellent annual report infographic that they are happy to share with other libraries to use as a template.

Sedgewick & District Municipal Library thanks Deb Smith and MLA Jackie Lovely for attending their library grand opening. Their new location is downtown and use of the new library is "through the roof"

Delburne Municipal Library shared that Scotiabank has sponsored book called the Hockey Jersey that promotes inclusivity in hockey. They will give a copy to any library that asks.

Clive Public Library held a book reading of *Sully the Rodeo Pickup Horse* with author Ashley Ackerman. They had a fantastic turnout.

Penhold & District Public Library through their Friends of the Library group were able to purchase Wonderbooks, which is a print book with a ready-to-play audiobook inside.

Board Members Present

Teresa Rilling (Board Chair), Norma Penney, Ray Reckseidler, **(Zoom)** Alison Barker-Jevne, Jul Bissell, Doug Booker, Deb Coombes, Jaime Coston, Edna Coulter, Teresa Cunningham, Amanda Derksen, Jeff Eckstrand, Richard Forsberg, Elaine Fossen, Dwayne Fulton, Barbara Gibson, Barb Gilliat, Pam Hansen, Cody Hillmer, Connie Huelsman, Dana Kreil, Guy Lapointe, Stephen Levy, Julie Maplethorpe, Ricci Matthews, Darryl Motley, Joy-Anne Murphy, Jackie Northey, Shawn Peach, Tina Hutchinson (Alternate for Leonard Phillips), Lori Reid, Bill Rock, Deb Smith, Les Stulberg, Michelle Swanson, Delaney Thoreson, Patricia Toone, Doug Weir, Carlene Wetthuhn, Shannon Wilcox, Darren Wilson, Janice Wing

Next Meeting: May 18, 2023 (in-Person)

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