



## PRLS Board Meeting Minutes November 17, 2022

The regular meeting of the Parkland Regional Library System Board was called to order at 10:19 a.m. on Thursday November 17, 2022 via Zoom in the Small Board Room, Lacombe.

**Present:** Debra Smith (Board Chair), Gord Lawlor, and Ray Reckseidler

**Present via 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

**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

**Staff:** Ron Sheppard, Tim Spark, Donna Williams, Kara Hamilton, Hailey Halberg, Olya Korolchuk, Jessica Dinan

**Guests:** Donna Engel

### Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:19 a.m. by Smith.

As part of PRLS' legislative compliance procedures, board members who send regrets are excused at the beginning of each meeting.

Motion by Janice Wing to excuse Elaine Fossen, Barbara Gibson, Marc Mousseau, Joy-Anne Murphy, Bill Rock, and Diane Roth from attendance at the board meeting on November 17, 2022 and remain members of the Parkland Board in good standing.

CARRIED  
PRLS 44/2022

### 1.1 Agenda

#### 1.1.2 Adoption of the Agenda

Motion by Barb Gilliat to accept the agenda as presented.

CARRIED  
PRLS 45/2022

## **1.2. Approval of Minutes**

Smith asked if there were any amendments to the September 15, 2022 minutes. There were none.

Motion by Stephen Levy to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2022 meeting as presented.

CARRIED  
PRLS 46/2022

## **1.3. Business arising from the minutes of the September 15, 2022 meeting**

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

## **2. Business Arising from the Consent Agenda**

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

Motion by Len Phillips to approve the consent agenda as presented.

CARRIED  
PRLS 47/2022

## **3.1. Election of Board Chair**

Each year at Parkland's November board meeting, the board chairperson is elected for a twelve-month term.

Smith turned the meeting over to Sheppard, who asked for nominations from the floor for the position of Board Chair. Barb Gilliat nominated Debra Smith. Norma Penney nominated Barb Gilliat. Darren Wilson nominated Teresa Rilling. Sheppard asked for other nominations a second time, and asked a third time for nominations.

Motion by Shannon Wilcox to cease nominations. A Zoom poll was presented and the results were: Deb Smith 9/35, Barb Gilliat 9/35, Teresa Rilling 17/35.

Teresa Rilling became the Board Chair. Rilling accepted the position and Smith resumed the duty of Chair until the end of the meeting. Sheppard turned the meeting back to Deb Smith.

Donna Engel left the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

## **3.2. Election of Executive Committee**

Smith reviewed. PRLS' Executive Committee has the ten-member maximum allowed by the Libraries Regulation. The Board Chair accounts for one seat on the committee. In accordance with Parkland's master agreement with the municipalities, members of the Executive Committee shall be selected on a geographical basis. Such selection shall be made by PRLS Board members representing that geographical area.

Members were divided into "breakout rooms" on Zoom and a representative was chosen from each area. The Executive Committee was appointed as follows:

Board Chair	Teresa Rilling – Town of Sylvan Lake
Seat 2	Joy-Anne Murphy – City of Camrose
Seat 3	Deb Coombs – Town of Bowden
Seat 4	Len Phillips – Town of Rocky Mtn. House
Seat 5	Jamie Coston – Town of Rimbey
Seat 6	Norma Penney – Village of Clive
Seat 7	Barb Gilliat – Village of Alix
Seat 8	Debra Smith – Village of Lougheed
Seat 9	Shannon Wilcox – Town of Carstairs
Seat 10	Janice Wing – Town of Innisfail

Motion by Len Phillips to accept the Executive Committee as appointed.

CARRIED

PRLS 48/2022

### 3.3 Marketing and Advocacy Report

Sheppard reviewed. 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.

Since 2017, provincial operating grants have been issued at \$4.70 per capita for systems and \$5.55 for municipal libraries using 2016 statistics. 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.

The group agreed to include the following:

- A joint letter to be written from all seven system Board Chairs with our collective request.
- All seven system Directors and Board Chairs will visit all the MLAs in their respective areas. Where there is an overlap (one MLA has constituents in more than one system) visits by system representatives should be conducted jointly.
- Develop a step-by-step advocacy guide for member libraries in systems.
- Encourage municipalities to support provincial funding to support public libraries.

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.

Details supporting the advocacy plan are currently under development.

Halberg continued. In September, Parkland delivered 3 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 7 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 Donalda. 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.

Motion by Teresa Cunningham to accept the Marketing and Advocacy Report for information.

CARRIED

PRLS 49/2022

#### **3.4. Election of Advocacy Committee**

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 Lougheed

Motion by Ray Reckseidler to appoint Jul Bissell, Deb Coombes, Teresa Cunningham, Barb Gilliat, Gord Lawlor, Stephen Levy, Joyce McCoy, Shawn Peach, Norma Penney, and Debra Smith to the Advocacy Committee.

CARRIED

PRLS 50/2022

#### **3.5. Board Signing Authorities**

Sheppard reviewed. Parkland Regional Library System requires that two trustees act as cheque signing authorities for cheques valued at \$45,000 or more, or, if the Director is unavailable to sign. It is most convenient if the Board signing authorities live or work close to PRLS headquarters.

Smith asked for two board members that live close to Parkland to volunteer be signing authorities.

Motion by Cal David to accept Barb Gilliat and Norma Penney as PRLS' board signing authorities.

CARRIED  
PRLS 51/2022

### **3.6. Dates for 2023 Meetings**

The Board reviewed the dates for PRLS' 2023 Board meetings. The Executive Committee will select their meeting dates at their December meeting.

February 23, 2023	10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. (Annual Report, Year in Review)
May 18, 2023	10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. (2022 Financial Statements presented)
September 14, 2023	10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. (Budget presentation for 2024)
November 16, 2023	10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. (Organizational meeting)

Motion by Gord Lawlor to receive for information.

CARRIED  
PRLS 52/2022

### **3.7. Board Meetings – Virtual or in-Person?**

Sheppard reported. Parkland staff sent out a survey to board members to measure their appetite for in-person board meetings in 2023.

When board members have been surveyed before, most prefer virtual meetings by a narrow margin. Virtual board meetings certainly save on travel time and cost, but some board members miss the dynamic and personal contact from in-person meetings. As a rule, the virtual meetings have resulted in higher attendance.

Unfortunately, Parkland does not have the technology to host hybrid board meetings. Board meetings need to be either in-person or virtual.

The results of the survey were:

- Zoom – 14 votes
- In-person – 4 votes
- Some in-person and some Zoom – 13 votes

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.

Motion by Stephen Levy to accept recommendations for the meeting Zoom/in-person schedule by the Executive Committee as presented.

CARRIED  
PRLS 53/2022

### **3.8. Draft Strategic Plan 2023-2025**

Sheppard reviewed. Included in the package was a draft copy of Parkland's new strategic plan. Also included were two documents prepared by Shari Hansen who facilitated the focus group meetings held earlier this year. In addition to the focus groups, 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 since many of Parkland's libraries needs have not changed.

At their October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Executive Committee reviewed the new plan and recommended its adoption by the board.

Motion by Stephen Levy to adopt Parkland's 2023-2025 strategic plan as presented.

CARRIED  
PRLS 54/2022

### **3.9. Policy Revisions**

Sheppard reviewed. Due to changes in some of Parkland's procedures, it was necessary to change some of our governance policies related to records retention.

In policy statement 4.4.20, references to having a safety deposit box have been removed since Parkland no longer has one.

Other changes are policy statement 4.7.2. – *Personal Information Banks* where responsibility for a variety of records have been transferred from the Finance and Operations Unit to "Parkland Administration".

The final change is the removal of section 4.7.2.6. – *Sign in Sheets*. Parkland no longer uses these for any reason.

The Executive Committee reviewed these changes at their October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and recommended that the board approve the changes as presented.

Motion by Ray Reckseidler to approve policy statement 4.4.20, 4.7.2.1, 4.7.2.2, and 4.7.2.3 as amended and repeal policy statement 4.7.2.6.

CARRIED  
PRLS 55/2022

### **3.10. Budget Approval Update**

Sheppard gave the budget update. The Parkland budget has been approved by 76.56% of the municipalities representing 71.22% of the population, with five municipalities declining. 55 of 64 municipalities have responded.

#### **3.11.1. Director & Library Services Report**

#### **3.12.2. Finance & Operations Report**

Smith asked if there were any questions regarding the Director & Library Services Report, or the Finance and Operations Report. There were none.

Motion by Barb Gilliat to receive the Director & Library Services Report and Finance and Operations Report for information.

CARRIED  
PRLS 56/2022

### **3.12. Parkland Community Update**

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>.

Motion by Stephen Levy to receive the Parkland Community Update for information.

CARRIED  
PRLS 57/2022

### **4. Adjournment**

Motion by Dana Kreil to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 a.m.

CARRIED  
PRLS 58/2022

Meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

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Chair