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# PRLS BOARD TALK

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## Highlights of the Parkland Regional Library Board Meeting FEBRUARY 22, 2024

### Board Orientation by Dr. Margaret Law

Law spoke of the importance of the board member's role to the organization, and the importance of acting in the best interest of Parkland when acting as a Parkland board member.

### Population Figures and the Parkland Master Agreement

Board members Carlene Wetthuhn and Deb Smith presented both sides on the topic of changing Article 8.3 regarding population estimates and which figures are to be used for Parkland's invoicing to member municipalities. A motion was put forward to amend the agreement. The motion was defeated.

### Parkland Annual Report

Each year Parkland is required to submit an annual report to the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) at Municipal Affairs.

An annual report infographic with highlights from 2023 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**

Our library accomplished a lot in 2023 in terms of programming in particular. We applied for and received a couple of grants, so we have been trying to do 1-2 programming events a month. In 2024, we plan to make our library wheelchair accessible and be able to enter our library from our back door so patrons will no longer have to enter through the school.

### **Nordegg Public Library Accomplishments**

2023 was our BIG year! It marked the move with the help of many volunteers to the new premises in the County's Discovery Centre. Our library volunteers were engaged in weeding, packing, moving, unpacking and finally re-shelving of the materials. The move involved an approximate total of 350+ volunteer hours. There was a ribbon cutting event with cupcakes and prizes. We are very proud of our new, light, bright, library. We have five days a week accessibility with old and new volunteers and a wonderful large storage and office area to help us organize and plan our ongoing active life in the community. We are so grateful for all the assistance and direction we received from Parkland as we begin this new chapter.

### **Spruce View Community Library Accomplishments**

We have partnered with Red Deer County and Spruce View School to bring *Tech Time* for seniors once a month in the library and last year with seniors and school kids helping. 72 people attended. Our literacy program continued last year on every Tuesday and also ran through the summer and had 472 attendees. We continue with *Legos* and it is still the most popular program we have, averaging about 35 kids every second Wednesday. Quilting still continues once a month with about 8 ladies coming each time. We held three fundraisers last year; they were all very well supported by our community.

### **Water Valley Public Library Accomplishments**

This year at the Water Valley library we have seen an increase in the number of dedicated volunteers that are helping to keep the library running. With this increase in volunteers, we have seen an increase in volunteer hours as well. We are really excited to have so many people invested in the Water Valley library. There has also been an increase in the number of items that are circulating through the library. It is great to see that the community is really supporting and using the library to its fullest.

## Marketing and Advocacy Committee Report

Parkland's Advocacy Committee has set its goals for 2024. Those goals are:

1. To continue to advocate for a cost-of-living adjustment to provincial operating grants and/or another infusion for increased library funding
2. To continue demonstrating leadership in the formulation of unified advocacy efforts by the seven library systems
3. To continue to focus on advocacy to the system board
4. To continue to help libraries and library boards advocate for themselves at the local level

Parkland's Advocacy Committee has organized a campaign for 2024 to help communicate the value of libraries in member library communities. Personal stories will be gathered throughout the region for further advocacy efforts.

Visit [prl.ab.ca/about-us/advocacy](http://prl.ab.ca/about-us/advocacy) to share how your local library has impacted you!

### Parkland's 65th Anniversary – Save The Date

Parkland's 65th Anniversary plans are in the works. On May 6-9th Parkland invites libraries to celebrate this milestone.

On May 10th, there will be an open house and light refreshments at Parkland HQ – invitations will be sent to library staff and board members closer to the event. Staff will be putting away a time capsule to be opened at the 100th anniversary – libraries are encouraged to bring something interesting that embodies what the future of libraries will look like.

## Committee News from Trustees

**Stettler Public Library** has a new laser engraver and 3D printer and are in the trade show on April 12-14 with the 3D printer making items for children. The Rotary Club of Stettler funded a unit that provides an immersive experience in the library.

**Camrose Public Library** is holding an event regarding intellectual freedom on February 22, 2024.

**The Innisfail Public Library** has recently updated their plan of service. They will also be celebrating their 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 13<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 – 2:00.

**The Penhold Library** distributed two pamphlets explaining how to get started with eResources and their year in review. They spent their TD Summer Reading prize on a baby grand piano and are working on ways to integrate music into their programming.

**Carstairs Public Library** received a grant that allowed them to purchase two pickup lockers for patrons to pick up library materials outside of library hours.

Todd Brand is giving a free seminar on Parliamentary Procedure in Strathmore on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Board Members Present

Barb Gilliat (Board Chair), Gord Lawlor, Ray Reckseidler, **(Zoom)** Alison Barker-Jevne, Jul Bissell, Doug Booker, Jaime Coston, Edna Coulter, Teresa Cunningham, Todd Dalke, Cal David, Dana Depalme, Jeff Eckstrand, Sarah Fahey, Richard Forsberg, Elaine Fossen, Dwayne Fulton, Barbara Gibson, Kathy Hall, Pam Hansen, Stephen Levy, Bryce Liddle, Julie Maplethorpe, Ricci Matthews, Joy-Anne Murphy, Jackie Northey, Jacquie Palm-Fraser, Jas Payne, Leonard Phillips, Diane Roth, Deb Smith, Les Stulberg, Carlene Wetthuhn, Shannon Wilcox, Bill Windsor, Janice Wing,

## Regrets

Twyla Hale, Marc Mousseau, Bill Rock

## Absent

Deb Coombes, Doug Francoeur, Michael Hildebrandt, Cody Hillmer, Dana Kreil, Darryl Motley, Jordon Northcott, Shawn Peach, Sandy Shipton, Harvey Walsh, Patricia Young

## Guest

Margaret Law

## Next Meeting: May 16, 2024 (Zoom)

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