



THE CITY OF RED DEER LIBRARY BOARD
6:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 24, 2025
Snell Auditorium

Minutes

Present: Nicole Camara, Natalie Day Lazenby, Jerry Moore, Shelley Odishaw, Laura Thevenaz, Lauren Pezzella(virtual), Councillor Dianne Wyntjes

Regrets: Maureen McCall, Brian Quigg, Zachary Woods

Staff Support: Shelley Ross (CEO), Michelle Hollebeke (minutes)

Welcome and Chair's Remarks Shelley called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Land acknowledgement: We acknowledge that the land we meet on today is located at the border of Treaty 6, to the North of the Red Deer River, and Treaty 7, to the South of the Red Deer River. We honour and respect the culture, ceremonies and stories of the many nations who made a home on these lands - including the Cree, Blackfoot, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway, Saulteaux and Inuit - and that this area is a long-established meeting place of the Métis. We are grateful for the traditional knowledge-keepers: elders past, present and emerging. May we live with respect on this land and in peace and friendship with its people.

- Conflict of Interest Declaration – none were declared.

49. Approval of Agenda

a. MOTION: That the Board approve the agenda as presented.

Thevenaz / Moore **CARRIED**

50. Approval of Minutes from the June 25, 2025 Board Meeting

a. MOTION: That the Board approve the minutes from the June 25, 2025 Board meeting as presented.

Camara / Thevenaz **CARRIED**

51. Strategic Discussion and Board Development- June Board Retreat

- Board members toured several Edmonton Public Library branches, gaining insights and brought forward ideas and potential opportunities for consideration regarding Spaces/Design, Makerspaces/Creative Offerings, Programs/Partnerships, Community Role, Branding/Identity, and Operations/Staffing.
- Themes related to Spaces/Design and Branding/Identity were largely identified as strategic in nature and will be considered either in the development of the Board's next Plan of Service or as potential revisions to the current Plan. The remaining themes were seen as more operational, with some ideas implemented (i.e., makerspace partnerships with RDP) and others related to programming to be referred to staff for further consideration. Due to scope, planning, and budgetary implications, it was agreed that further review and analysis would be part of the Board's preparation for the next Plan of Service.

52. Report from the Planning and Finance Committee

a. MOTION: That the Board accept the May, June, July and August 2025 financial statements as presented for information purposes only.

Moore / Day Lazenby CARRIED

b. MOTION: That the Board adopt the 2026 Operating Budget as presented.

Moore / Camara CARRIED

53. Report from Personnel and Administration Committee

a. MOTION: To recommend to the Board that Policy 2.2.6 – Institutional Memberships be *amended* to add "*Library*" before "associations" to read "*Library associations*":

"The Board may elect to become an institutional member of [*Library*] associations in which case institutional membership fees will be paid by the Library."

Thevenaz / Day Lazenby CARRIED

b. MOTION: To recommend to the Board *changes* to Board Policy Section 5 as presented, adding "*and Programs*" to Section 5; rewording of Policy 5.1.5 from "Controversial Materials" to "*Materials the Subject of Debate*"; revising Policy 5.2 to "*Library Programs*" with subsequent renumbering of existing Policy 5.2 – "Service and Materials for Those Unable to Use Conventional Print" to 5.3; inclusion of "*or Programs*" to Appendix A – Reconsideration of Library Materials with added information and questions.

SECTION 5: LIBRARY MATERIALS [*AND PROGRAMS*]

➤ **5.1.5 ~~Controversial Materials~~ [*Materials the Subject of Debate*]**

➤ **POLICY 5.2 [*Library Programs*]**

[5.2.1 *The Library provides public programming to fulfill its mission to preserve and promote universal access to a broad range of knowledge, experience, information and ideas in a welcoming and supportive environment.*

5.2.2 *This policy applies to all programs including collaborative programs but does not apply to events that are developed only for special purposes such as donor recognition or fundraising nor to programs or events offered by other organizations or individuals renting or using Library spaces.*

5.2.3 *The Board's Plan of Service sets priorities for Library programming and Library staff members interpret these priorities on an annual basis. Programs promote literacy, collections and resources, offer access*

to subject matter expertise and build support and connections in our community.

5.2.4 Library programs are open to everyone regardless of race, ethnic origin, place of origin, citizenship, colour, ancestry, language, creed (religion), age, sex, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, disability, political affiliation, membership in a union or staff association, receipt of public assistance, level of literacy or any other similar factor.

5.2.5 The Library reserves the right to limit attendance based on considerations of the program—for example, programs based on age, space or materials limitations. Program attendance requires compliance with Library policies including Policy 3.2 - Appropriate Use Policy.

5.2.6 Some programs may involve a minimal cost when the program could not otherwise be offered. Programs may require Library membership, i.e. a valid RDPL card.

5.2.7 External presenters delivering programs will not solicit business, customers or volunteers, or market their commercial products or services. Exceptions made in service of strategic objectives must be approved by the CEO.

5.2.8 Programs will be delivered by qualified staff or subject matter experts who contribute to the Library's safe, supportive and welcoming environment.

5.2.9 Programs may cover a range of topics and ideas which are of current interest and possible future significance, including topics and ideas which reflect current conditions, trends and controversies. Children's access to programming is the responsibility of parents and guardians.

5.2.10 The Library accepts proposals for programs from external organizations and individuals, and evaluates them according to Library policies, staffing, budgets, and the Plan of Service. Approval of a previous program proposal does not guarantee that an organization or individual will be asked to offer the program or have future proposals approved. Programs may be cancelled at the discretion of Library staff without warning or compensation of any kind.

5.2.11 Procedure for Reconsideration of a Library Program

- ***The Library believes that a healthy society encourages members of its community to participate actively in an open exchange of ideas and opinions. The Library offers a wide selection of programs inspired by the informational, educational, cultural and recreational needs and interests of all Red Deerians;***
- ***The content or manner of expressing ideas in programs purposely selected to fill the needs of some borrowers, may, on occasion, be considered to be offensive by other borrowers. The Library recognizes the right of any individual or group to reject library***

programs for personal use, but does not accord to any individual or group the right to restrict the freedom of others to attend that same program;

- *Borrowers who object to specific programs may submit a written request for reconsideration if they feel that the content of the program is not consistent with the criteria outlined in Board policies and Plan of Service;*
- *Requests for reconsideration will be considered by the CEO and a response communicated to the Borrower who submitted the request. Programs will proceed while the request is under review;*
- *If the Borrower who submitted the request is not satisfied with the response, they may submit a written appeal within seven days of the response to have the response reviewed by the Personnel and Administration Committee, whose decision shall be final. This may occur well after the program has taken place;*
- *Intellectual freedom challenges to Library materials, programs and services are reported to the Board and contributed to The Canadian Library Challenges database.]*

➤ **APPENDIX A – RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS [OR PROGRAMS]**

CITIZEN'S REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF A LIBRARY RESOURCE [OR PROGRAM]

This form is to be thoroughly completed by the RDPL borrower making the request and returned to the CEO. Only active borrowers of the Library may submit a request for reconsideration, and no more than one item [or program] per month may be requested for reconsideration.

[An item or program will be reconsidered only once per calendar year, no matter how many requests may be submitted.

All requests for reconsideration will be reported for inclusion in the Canadian Library Challenges Database.]

[LIBRARY RESOURCES]:

AUTHOR_____

PUBLISHER_____

TITLE_____

COPYRIGHT DATE_____

LIBRARY PATRON'S NAME_____

TELEPHONE_____

LIBRARY CARD BARCODE_____

1. To what in the book or material do you object? Please be specific, including page numbers.

2. Have you read, viewed or listened to the entire item? Yes____

No____. If no, indicate which parts you have read, viewed or listened to. Please be specific.

3. Have you read any reviews of the item? Yes____ No____. If yes, please list.
4. Would you be willing to discuss this material with a review committee consisting of two Board members, one professional librarian from within the Library and one professional librarian from the region? Yes_____ No_____

[LIBRARY PROGRAMS:

NAME OF PROGRAM _____

DATE OF PROGRAM _____

LOCATION OF PROGRAM _____

1. Did you attend the entire program? Yes____ No____.
2. If yes, to what in the program do you object? Please be specific, including details. If no, indicate which parts you attended and what you object to. Please be specific.
3. Did a non-attendee encourage you to object? Yes____ No____. If yes, please explain their rationale.
4. Would you be willing to discuss your objection with a review committee consisting of two Board members, one professional librarian from within the Library and one professional librarian from the region? Yes_____ No_____]

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE LIBRARY CEO

Thevenaz

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Wyntjes

CARRIED

54. Report from The Friends of the Red Deer Public Library

- The Friends have expressed strong interest in fundraising toward the Library's proposed new Literacy van, which will serve to bring library services throughout the community. A casino fundraiser will take place March 28-29/26 and volunteers are needed.
- The Friends' Fall Book Sale will take place on October 22-26. The Red Deer Lettering Arts Guild will be on site with bookmarks in recognition of their 40th anniversary.

55. Information Items

- **Board Out and About –Board member advocacy reports (discussion)**
- Events attended by various Board members were shared:
 - RDPL's Summer Reading Club

- Parkland Regional Library Conference
- Red Deer Local Immigration Partnership's Welcoming Week - Citizenship ceremony and various community conversations/presentations
- RDPL Pride events
- Community Foundation of Central Alberta film Pride vs. Prejudice
- RDPL program 'Books and Bannock'
- RDPL program Ukrainian Heritage Fair

- **Summer Monthly Highlights (June-August)**

56. Adjournment

- Shelley Odishaw adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: October 29, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.