



## THE CITY OF RED DEER LIBRARY BOARD

6:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 29, 2025  
Snell Auditorium

### Minutes

**Present:** Nicole Camara, Natalie Day Lazenby, Maureen McCall, Jerry Moore, Shelley Odishaw, Laura Thevenaz, Lauren Pezzella, Councillor Dianne Wyntjes

**Regrets:** Brian Quigg, Zachary Woods

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

**Guests:** Dr. Toni Samek, Faculty of Education - School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alberta; RDPL Management team

**Welcome and Chair's Remarks** – Shelley Odishaw welcomed guests and called the meeting to order at 6:06 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.

#### 57. Approval of Agenda

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

**DAY LAZENBY / CAMARA**

**CARRIED**

#### 58. Strategic Discussion and Board Development - Dr. Toni Samek: Intellectual and Expressive Freedom in Libraries presentation

Canadian libraries uphold intellectual and expressive freedom with the right to access as a core democratic value, increasingly facing censorship pressures. Despite protests, policy challenges, and public scrutiny libraries remain committed to providing open, lawful, and diverse access to information without endorsing specific content, affirming that "free people read freely."

#### 59. Approval of Minutes from the September 24, 2025 Board Meeting

**a. MOTION: That the Board approve the minutes from the September 24, 2025 Board meeting as presented.**

**DAY LAZENBY / CAMARA**

**CARRIED**

#### 60. Report from the Planning and Finance Committee

**a. MOTION: That the Board accept the September 2025 financial statements as presented for information purposes only.**

**MOORE / PEZZELLA**

**CARRIED**

**b. MOTION: To recommend to the Board that RDPL enter into a five-year contract with RSM as presented.**

**MOORE / WYNTJES**

**CARRIED**

**61. Report from Personnel and Administration Committee**

**a. MOTION: To recommend to the Board *changes* to Policy 2.1.5 – Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses:**

- **'Board Members receive no direct or indirect compensation but will be reimbursed for *previously approved* expenses incurred on previously Board-approved Board business. Expenses such as travel, meals, accommodations, registration fees and parking will be reimbursed upon the provision of receipts in accordance with the Expense Claims Policy'**

**THEVENAZ / MOORE**

**CARRIED**

**b. MOTION: To recommend to the Board as proposed by the Planning and Finance Committee to Policy 2.3.2 – Contracts be *reworded* from:**

- **'New contracts and agreements for goods and services with a value of up to 1% of the operating budget or more entered into between the Board and suppliers will be submitted, in writing, to the Planning and Finance Committee at a regular or budget meeting for review and recommendation to the Board' to:**
- **'New contracts and agreements for goods and services with a value of *1% or more* of the operating budget entered into between the Board and suppliers will be submitted, in writing, to the Planning and Finance Committee at a regular or budget meeting for review and recommendation to the Board'.**

**THEVENAZ / MOORE**

**CARRIED**

**c. MOTION: To recommend to the Board *changes* as proposed by the Planning and Finance Committee to Policies 2.3.4 – Financial Statements and 2.3.11 – Gift Acceptance:**

- **2.3.4 -'A monthly financial statement, prepared by Library Administration and reviewed by the CEO or their designate, outlining the current year budget, year-to-date expenses, budget variances and percentage expended will be presented to the Planning and Finance Committee for its review and recommendation to the Board at its next regular monthly Board meeting. *Types of statements presented will be determined by the Board*'.**

- **2.3.11 -'Unrestricted cash and equivalent charitable gifts will be placed in the general operating fund. Gifts of marketable securities, real estate or deferred gifts which include bequests, life insurance policies, gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts may be transferred to the *Community Foundation of Central Alberta*' for investment in a RDPL fund';**
- **'Donors of cash and equivalents of \$20.00 or more will receive a charitable tax receipt. *Donors of cash under \$20.00 may receive a charitable tax receipt if requested*'.**

**THEVENAZ / DAY LAZENBY**

**CARRIED**

**d. MOTION: To recommend to the Board that the unspent local balance be moved from the McNeil fund into general staff development.**

**THEVENAZ / PEZZELLA**

**CARRIED**

**62. Report from The Friends of the Red Deer Public Library**

- Record memberships were signed up during the Friends' latest booksale.

**63. Information Items**

**- Board Out and About –Board member advocacy reports (discussion)**

- Several RDPL programs were attended, including Ukrainian Heritage Day, the Tyrell Virtual Visit and display, Sit, Stay & Read with Katja.

**- [September](#) Monthly Highlights**

**64. Adjournment** - Shelley Odishaw adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

**Next Board Meeting: November 26, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.**