



THE CITY OF RED DEER LIBRARY BOARD

January 28, 2026
6:00 p.m., Waskasoo Kiwanis Boardroom

Minutes

Present: Torben Andersen, Natalie Day Lazenby, Joseph Fittes, Maureen McCall, Lauren Pezzella, Laura Thevenaz, Blair Wilson, Zach Woods

Regrets: Brian Quigg, Councillor Adam Goodwin

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

Welcome and Chair's Remarks

Chair Laura Thevenaz called the meeting to order at 6:01 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.

1. Approval of Agenda

- a. **MOTION:** That the Board approve the agenda as amended to include addition of 4.b. Project Nexus, Red Deer Homeless Foundation discussion.

PEZZELLA

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes from the November 26, 2025 Board Meeting

- a. **MOTION:** That the Board approve the minutes from the November 26, 2025 Board meeting as presented.

MCCALL

CARRIED

3. Report from the Planning and Finance Committee

- a. **MOTION:** That the Board accept the October, November, and *pre-audit* December financial statements as presented for information purposes only.

WOODS / FITTES

CARRIED

- b. **MOTION:** That the Board approve the 2025 Plan of Service Action Plan - Final Report as presented.

- The Board reviewed the Report and indicated general agreement with the

outcomes presented. It was noted that volunteer participation levels in Adult and Youth Literacy programs were encouraging given current trends of declining volunteer rates in the community.

WOODS / DAY LAZENBY CARRIED

c. MOTION: That the Board approve the proposed 2026 Plan of Service Action Plan as presented.

- Approval was postponed to the February meeting pending recommended amendments, including quantifiable targets where appropriate, improved promotion of library resources, and an internal branding evaluation.

d. MOTION: That the Board approve the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) 2025 Survey as presented.

THEVENAZ / PEZZELLA CARRIED

4. Report from the Personnel and Administration Committee

a. MOTION: Recommend to the Board that the Board ratify the January 22, 2026 Memorandum of Agreement with CUPE Local 4810.

ANDERSEN / WILSON CARRIED

- b.** Discussion of proposed shelter site of Red Deer Homeless Foundation's Project Nexus and potential impacts to the library. The Board will proceed to draft a letter to the City of Red Deer outlining concerns.

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

- Recently retired Board members have joined the Friends' Board. Bylaws have been reviewed and updated. Board members are invited to attend the upcoming AGM March 4th and the fundraiser casino March 28 and 29, volunteers are appreciated.

6. Information Items

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

- Members attended Winter Solstice, Books and Bannock.
- meeting with MP Burton Bailey on the threat to the Library Book rate offered by Canada Post and its impact on interlibrary loan services.
- an ad-hoc committee was formed for Board evaluations

- [November & December](#) Monthly Highlights

7. Adjournment - the meeting was adjourned by Laura Thevenaz at 8:14 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 6:00 p.m.