



THE CITY OF RED DEER LIBRARY BOARD

April 29, 2026

6:00 p.m., Waskasoo Kiwanis Boardroom

Minutes

Present: Torben Andersen, Joseph Fittes, Councillor Adam Goodwin, Natalie Day Lazenby, Maureen McCall, Lauren Pezzella, Brian Quigg, Chair Laura Thevenaz (virtual), Blair Wilson, Zach Woods

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

Welcome and Chair's Remarks – Vice Chair Natalie Day Lazenby called the meeting to order at 6:00 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.

24. Approval of Agenda

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

GOODWIN / FITTES CARRIED

25. Approval of Minutes from the March 25, 2026 Board Meeting

a. **MOTION:** That the Board approve the minutes from the March 25, 2026 Board meeting as presented.

MCCALL / PEZZELLA CARRIED

26. Report from the Planning and Finance Committee

a. **MOTION:** To recommend that the Board accept March 2026 informational financial statements.

GOODWIN / QUIGG CARRIED

b. **MOTION:** To recommend that the Board accept the findings of the 2025 audit.

FITTES / WILSON CARRIED

- c. **MOTION: To recommend that the Board approve that \$112,304 reported as excess revenue over expenses in the audited financial statements be moved to the Financial Stabilization Reserve.**

GOODWIN / PEZZELLA CARRIED

- Board education items are now being planned by the Planning and Finance Committee with more updates to follow.

27. In camera discussion of March 27 employee/Board event feedback to be followed by CEO evaluation feedback.

- a. **MOTION: To go in camera at 6:11 p.m. – Board only**

MCCALL / ANDERSON CARRIED

- b. **MOTION: To come out of camera at 7:50 p.m.**

ANDERSEN / GOODWIN CARRIED

- Two motions arose from the in camera session:

- c. **MOTION: That the CEO works with security and management to conduct a safety and security audit at all branches, review the suspension policy, and provide a report with findings and recommendations to increase security. Report to be completed by the June Board meeting.**

GOODWIN / FITTES CARRIED

- d. **MOTION: That the CEO reviews social services cuts and provides a report outlining the impacts to the Library. Report to be provided by the May Board meeting.**

ANDERSEN / PEZZELLA CARRIED

28. Report from the Personnel and Administration Committee

- The staff event held on March 27 was attended by several Board members.
- Review of Policy 3.2 – Appropriate Use included the following addition in 3.2.13: *'Intoxication: Being obviously under the influence of alcohol or drugs'*.

- a. **MOTION: To recommend that the Board adopt proposed changes including 3.2.13 to Policy 3.2 – Appropriate Use Policy.**

WILSON / PEZZELLA CARRIED

- Policy 3.2 will be brought back in the fall for further review once the security assessment has been completed.
- **Bill 28 and CAP Libraries Update**

- A draft letter advocating for Intellectual Freedom in response to proposed Bill 28 was presented to the Board, with a minor edits made. Bill 28 was further discussed with the majority viewing the letter seeking support for intellectual freedom from municipal and provincial leaders as necessary and in alignment with other library communications. Points of order were duly raised and addressed by the Chair regarding the potential impacts of Bill 28 to users of libraries and the letter's intended purpose.

b. MOTION: To approve the proposed Intellectual Freedom Advocacy letter to be sent to the City of Red Deer Council and MLAs as amended with minor edits.

MCCALL / DAY LAZENBY CARRIED - 9 IN FAVOUR, 1 OPPOSED

- MAMPLE Awards nomination of RDPL Cree Class Program, Board Evaluation Committee update

- Discussions deferred due to time limitations.

29. Strategic Discussion and Board Development

- Scavenger Hunt assignment review

- Postponed to a future meeting.

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

- \$3018.15 was raised at the recent semi-annual book sale held April 22-26.

31. Information Items

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

- Indigenous Languages Day with Elder Linda at Cronquist House
- Aspire Child Development Centre tour, where awareness was raised around the need for donations due to long waiting lists for support.

- [March](#) Monthly Highlights

32. Adjournment - Lauren Pezzella adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 27, 2026 6:00 p.m.