



## THE CITY OF RED DEER LIBRARY BOARD

May 27, 2026

6:00 p.m., Waskasoo Kiwanis Boardroom

### Minutes

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

**Absent:** Maureen McCall

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

**Guest:** Haley Amendt – Director, Sylvan Lake Public Library

**Welcome and Chair's Remarks** - 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.

### 33. Approval of Agenda

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

Thevenaz / Pezzella

CARRIED

### 34. Approval of Minutes from the April 29, 2026 Board Meeting

**a. MOTION: That the Board approve the minutes from the April 29, 2026 Board meeting as presented.**

Andersen / Thevenaz

CARRIED

### 35. Strategic Discussion and Board Development

**- Haley Amendt – Director, Sylvan Lake Municipal Library, Banned Books program**

-The 'Banned Book Club' was launched in response to school library book bans in 2025 and was intended to foster conversation that welcomed differing perspectives and respectful disagreement. The club focuses on recently challenged books as well as lesser-known titles. She noted that the first meeting coincided with municipal elections, during which there was an escalation of negative social media posts about the club; however, the overall public response was positive and supportive. Since then, the clubs have run

smoothly, membership has increased, and organizers have gained a stronger understanding of the community's support for and appreciation of the library.

**- Approval of advocacy letter amendments**

- The Chair sent the advocacy letters to the Province and the City of Red Deer, which had been approved at the previous meeting. Minor edits were approved by vote following the meeting. Councillor Goodwin to follow up with CoRD to enquire on the status of motions.

**a. MOTION: To break for 10 minutes at 7:28 p.m.**

**Pezzella / Fittes**

**CARRIED**

**b. MOTION: To return to session 7:37 p.m.**

**Woods / Fittes CARRIED**

**- Social Services Report**

- The report outlined the challenges social agencies are facing in relation to the downtown branch, particularly in supporting individuals with heightened service needs. Agencies noted difficulties providing services due to limited resources and funding. As not all agencies had submitted data, additional follow-up will be undertaken to strengthen the report before it is submitted to the City, accompanied by a letter from the Board requesting support and clarification on how the City will address these issues so the library can plan appropriately for the upcoming winter from a budget perspective.

**- Board Recruitment**

- As terms are expiring in the fall for some Board members, a reminder was provided that the City will commence with applications to renew sometime in late summer/early fall. All positions will be open for nomination at the Organizational meeting.

**36. Report from the Planning and Finance Committee**

**a. MOTION: To recommend that the Board accept non-audited April 2026 informational financial statements.**

**Fittes / Goodwin**

**CARRIED**

**b. MOTION: To recommend that the Board donate \$2500 toward CAP Libraries work from the Board education budget.**

**Pezzella / Quigg**

**CARRIED**

- Board retreat survey to be posted on the Board site for those who had not yet responded.

**37. Report from the Personnel and Administration Committee**

- **CEO performance & compensation review (in-camera session)**

- a. **MOTION: To go in camera at 7:47 p.m.**

**Andersen / Thevenaz                      CARRIED**

- b. **MOTION: To come out of camera at 8:24 p.m.**

**Andersen / Goodwin                      CARRIED**

- a motion arose from the in camera session:

- c. **MOTION: That the Board undertake a CEO compensation review and bring a recommendation for a decision at the June Board meeting, to be chaired by Planning and Finance Chair.**

**Andersen / Goodwin                      CARRIED**

- **Bill 28 and CAP Libraries update**

- Third reading was passed and finalized mid-May, next steps include seeking input into regulations. CAP Libraries are holding a webinar Zoom meeting on May 29 at noon with all trustees welcome to join.

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

- 55 new memberships have brought in \$550. The Friends graciously donated \$23,536.17 toward retrofitting of the Library van, which was gratefully received and acknowledged by the Library.

### **39. Information Items**

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

- 'Ghosts of Gastown' Escape Room was thoroughly and enthusiastically enjoyed
- Parliamentary Procedures course at the Airdrie Public Library was noted as highly beneficial by attending Board members.

- **April Monthly Highlights**

- The variety, creativity and attitude of the staff were commended.

- **Board Scavenger Hunt Review**

- Tabled to a future meeting.

### **40. Adjournment – Joseph Fittes adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: June 24, 2026 6:00 p.m.**