

Alberta Public Library Administrators Council
Via Zoom
November 27, 2020
Minutes

Attendees: Andrea Newland and Jeri Wolf (Sylvan Lake), Jeri Maitland (Cochrane), Pam Medland (Airdrie), Mary Zazelenchuk (High River), Laura Winton (Beaumont), Leah Woodford (Bonnyville), Rhonda O’Neill (Stettler), Haley Amendt (Parkland Regional Library), Karla Palichuk (Yellowhead Regional Library), Deb Cryderman (Grande Prairie), Lara Grunow (Okotoks), Peter Bailey (St. Albert), Allison Stewart (Stony Plain), Stephanie Johnson (Devon), Eunhye Cho (St Paul), Sharon Siga (Strathcona County), Rachel Dick Hughes (Strathmore), Louisa Robinson (Peace Library System), Serena Boyte-Hawryluk (County of Grande Prairie), Terra Plato (Lethbridge),

1. Call to order: A. Newland 1:00 pm
2. Approval of Agenda: Update to add signing authorities. Moved by P. Medland CARRIED
3. Approval of August 21, 2020 AGM & Regular Meeting Minutes. Moved by L. Winton, seconded by S. Ross CARRIED
4. Review of Financial Statement: \$1000 conference sponsorship to Parkland not appearing in report, should be reflected in next financial report. L. Winton moved that the Financial Statements be accepted, A. Stewart seconded. CARRIED
5. A) A. Stewart moved to confirm Andrea Newland has taken on the role of Chair and Rhonda O’Neill has accepted role as Secretary. CARRIED
B) M. Zazelenchuk moved to remove Mary Zazelenchuk and Allison Stewart as signing authorities on all APLAC accounts and to add Andrea Newland and Laura Winton and Rhonda O’Neill as new signing authorities. A. Stewart seconded. CARRIED
C) Director of membership – A. Newland moved to make Laura Winton (Beaumont) the new Director of Membership. Stephanie Johnson (Devon) has offered to help with administrative duties. Some discussion of Listserv cleanup ensued, is it time to change platforms such as to the system YRL is using, Groups Dot IO. Current listserv is hosted through TAL. S. Johnson seconded. CARRIED
6. Update from LAA meeting – Louisa Robinson discussed November 25 meeting. It was informational in nature and the new board members were introduced.
 - a. There is no AGM planned for next year as bylaws do not allow electronic. S. Siga noted that other organizations have received legal opinions that indicate electronic meetings are okay even if they are not contemplated in the bylaws.
 - b. TAL will now have a Netspeed stream during the Stronger Together conference in 2021.
 - c. LAA has eliminated position of Executive Director and the Board is now handling association business. Question whether ALTA and LAA might join forces to retain one ED. P. Bailey noted that institutional memory (30 years) is leaving with Christine Sheppard. P. Medland noted

that Christine's contribution as LAA ED should be recognized by APLAC. A. Newland to put something together and send it on to Christine.

7. New enhanced health measures announced November 24th – what are libraries doing? S. Siga noted that in teleconference with PLSB on Wednesday Diana Davidson noted that none of the restrictions apply to libraries except for the 25% capacity in enhanced zones.
 - a. Sylvan Lake: no in person programming, back online. Nothing that the library offers is considered a social gathering.
 - b. Stony Plain: packed up all furniture – no place for people to meet.
 - c. Grande Prairie: no programming for children.
 - d. Cochrane: cancelled all in house programs but otherwise, we are open as we have been since June
 - e. St Paul: reduced number of people allowed in, cancelled meeting room bookings and postponed in-person programming
 - f. Lethbridge: discontinued room bookings,
 - g. Stettler: suspended in person programs. In person visits, computer use and one-on one support will continue with safeguards.
 - h. Bonnyville: moved to virtual programming
 - i. St. Albert: staff encouraged to work from home. Cracking down on computer use – to 60 minutes only.
 - j. Strathmore: question from fire chief on whether the library is a community centre, working things out.
 - k. Parkland Regional Library: a few of the smaller libraries in the region have closed their doors, but the majority of libraries haven't made drastic changes.
 - l. NASTPecho: we may ask people to leave early if we reach maximum capacity. People who live alone who are allowed 2 close contacts, do not pry if people sit together.
 - m. **Discussion of wearing masks:** A Stewart discussed a menu of accommodations that they have developed for people without masks (curbside, Wi-Fi hubs etc.). Saskatoon had someone punched over denying access to people who weren't wearing masks. S Ross noted that mask exemptions do not protect others. Mental wellness of staff is strained, asking them to deal with belligerent patrons is an issue. In Strathmore, staff tell people about the mask requirement and offer them a mask. They leave it at that. Deb Cryderman to send their Mask Bylaw to Terra Plato (Lethbridge) and maybe share it with the group too.
 - n. Deb Cryderman shared: <https://everythinggp.com/2020/11/27/constitutional-scholar-says-charter-argument-not-valid-in-fight-against-masks-other-covid-restrictions/>
 - o. Question about Libraries in Community Centres, they seem to be safe from closure if have own entrance?
8. What do the members want from the APLAC group? Needs, etc.?
 - a. Advocacy for Library Services in the Province. Budget 2021 seems to be okay, but worries are there on Budget 2022. The population figures being frozen at 2016 levels is a big problem for some communities.
 - b. Discussion of return on investment, some prefer not to discuss, but rather use the term Social Value. This is how the library brings added value to the community_____
 - c. Message is that we need to continue advocating on a local level. Keep sharing with one another what we have learned and what works.

- d. LAA they struggled with this too, members want associations to advocate. P. Medland noted that the value of LAA came in taking stands on social issues too.

9. Round Robins:

- a. Terra (Lethbridge): city council finance cttee cut everyone across the board by 5% Looking at cutting 20 hours per week from both branches – that said, hours are good, 5 days a week at 12 hours day. Alternating hours at branches. Losing some evenings.
- b. Allison (Stony Plain): construction delay was delayed again, fan coil not delivered, completion expected in January. Opening in March. Good feedback on kids can cook program. Online cooking in the kitchen, programmer and daughter take video and share recipes. Families cooking together becoming more of a thing. Looking for family events. Outdoors programming inside arenas (hockey) corrals the kiddos. New Council representative on Board.
- c. Shelley (Red Deer): HVAC delivered, fan coils and all. Delivered assembled on a big trailer, taking apart to bring indoors. Curbside moved inside just a bit. New sewer liner being installed while public not around. Watching the numbers and planning strategy.
- d. Laura (Beaumont): presented to council, new manager, capital requests – get zero percent increase. Funding for expansion of library (with cultural centre), hoping to double size in next few years. Transition back to virtual programming. Flattering St. Alberta by imitating their story walk.
- e. Stephanie (Devon): Have gone fine free. Waiting on budget news from council (will budget stay stable). Looking at refinishing or replacing old furniture (fabric chairs). Local youth group made the 1000 paper cranes, wrote a little message (hope, wish, dream, happy thought).
- f. Mary (High River): Presented budget, stable this year, take home kits going well, working on draft agreement with municipality. Otherwise adjusting to things. New theme every week (crossword puzzles, building a helicopter, mostly younger school group). Happy to share information.
- g. Peter (St Albert): budget under consideration, had to amend budget from 2020. Council said they want more in 2021. Went from zero from amended budget. Hit it out of the park in terms of presentation. Starting back with in person, just prior to new guidelines, have put a pause on that and on outreach. Story walks and forest friends. Outreach person offered an empty unit at the mall, 2100 sq feet, were going full tilt on pop up library there.
- h. Pam (Airdrie): New building in go phase. Writer in residence, first ever, \$3000 for a month of work on behalf of the writer – 4 programs - 2 hours each. Every Thursday offered one-on-one consults with writers between 2-8 pm. Hoping to do this program again. Spend more than that on SRC and it was quite successful. Not hearing anything on the budget. Could be looking at decrease.
- i. Deb (Grande Prairie): waiting on budget as well, One pot for all the different groups. Working on lease agreement with the Town, partnership agreement. Going fine free, Urban Libraries Council has a map, have library put on the map. Loaning gaming consoles, finishing new plan of service. Kindest, happiest one she has seen yet. Exploring new web site. Smart lockers in Clairmont outside GP.
- j. Hayley (Parkland Regional Library): In new building on time on budget, once Covid settles down, maybe we can all meet there in April. Working on 3D tour of building. Smarter

Together conference was a success with over 1000 attendees, some international, thanks to APLAC for sponsorship.

- k. Serena (County of Grande Prairie): New position created last year. Low capacities set for libraries. Hoping budget goes ahead. Online board meeting first time upcoming. Working with Grande Prairie on Smart Lockers, county has 3 libraries in hamlets, but much of the county has no service.
 - l. Eunhye (St. Paul): Washroom renovation project completed. Funding for next year is up in the air. Take home kits going well, as many kits are going out as would have done in person. Kimberly foundation is funding some take home kits.
 - m. Sharon (Strathcona County): online programming, good responses, lap times attracted 70 people, ran Rural Kids Can Craft over the summer. Pulling back on programming. Looking at improvements to curbside pickup.
 - n. Lara (Okotoks): New building is coming, summer of next year moving in. Budget in, asked for 6% increase, larger new building will cost more to run. Seemed well received by council. Limited in-house programming, board kicked off capital campaign, bringing in wellness person to do a workshop for staff, everyone is a bit fatigued.
 - o. Leah (Bonnyville): Holding steady, though some Covid fatigue. Community is responding well to Covid measures. Budget went to town and MD, due to OH&S deficiencies they needed to ask for additional money. Board to work on policies. Programming take home and online programming are highlights. Putting things away and weeding, early literacy kits not circulating. Putting together some take home kits for older kids, things that can be cleaned easily, roll it out during family literacy time. Grant funded, making a math, engineering box, rubric, music, engineering, etc.
 - p. Karla (Yellowhead Regional Library): Budget will be passed when board meets, 1.5% increase. \$0.04/capita. Stronger together conference, surprised and pleased with turn out. Inclusifyy webinar, participation was pretty good. Executive will be changing over, number of council members rotating off. Starting 2021 off with new energy, new people on Board.
 - q. Rhonda (Stettler): Budget presented to Town and County, waiting on word. Town and County formed an intermunicipal board this year. No group programs for now so focusing on online and take-home kits. Rocky vs Stettler online gaming is gaining participants since switching from Nintendo to Among Us. Working with FCSS and Stettler Information and Referral Centre to deliver Christmas care packages (with take-home kits for seniors). Looking at radio bingo in 2021.
 - r. Andrea (Sylvan Lake): Received a Community Spirit grant and have Christmas lights set up all around building, goal is to light up the whole town. Huge influx in renewed memberships, which is great as they do charge for memberships in Sylvan (although they are fine free). Doing virtual programs, until ready to go in person again. Staff keep adapting. Budget went to council in October, seems to be going well, will find out soon.
10. Next Meeting: April 9th, 2021 1-3 pm. Possibly via Zoom, though Parkland has offered to host.
11. Adjournment: D. Cryderman moved to adjourn.

Approval of minutes moved by Sharon Siga by email February 10, 2021. Seconded by Laura Winton by email on February 17. Carried.

_____, Secretary