

Plan

Govern

Advocate

So you want to join the library board...

What does the library board do?

Under provincial legislation, the Board is charged with seeking "to provide, in co-operation with other boards, a comprehensive and efficient public library service that reflects the community's unique needs."

The Board has three major roles:

To Plan

The Board creates a Strategic Plan of Service that guides the operations of the library and assists in planning programs and activities prepared by library staff.

The Board measures the results of the plan and reports on those results

(examples: participates in strategic planning workshops and evaluates strategic plans on a regular basis.)

To Govern

The Board ensures that the library is managed but does not manage the library

The Board demonstrates accountability to the funding Councils

The Board hires and evaluates a library manager.

(examples: prepares annual budget for town council approval and participates in presentations to local and provincial elected officials)

To Advocate

The Board acts as a bridge between the community and the library

The Board promotes the library to the community and encourages everyone to use its collections, programs and services.

(examples: attends library functions and participates in advertising campaigns to further the library profile in the community.)

How much commitment do I need to make?

The library board meets once a month on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm. There are also various subcommittees of the board including personnel, finance, safety, and fundraising. Each member of the board is a member of at least one committee. Finally, there are three executive positions on the board including Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. These positions are up for nominations and renewal on a yearly basis.

Other opportunities include:

- The board sends one member a year to the Parkland Regional Library conference in Jasper. The conference is always the last weekend (Thurs – Sunday) in April. This is a great opportunity for new board members to get a large picture of libraries in Alberta and take advantage of a professional development opportunity.
- Parkland Regional Library offers board training workshops. These are a great opportunity for board members to learn what their roles and responsibilities are. It is suggested that each board member attend one of these workshops during their term.
- The Parkland Regional Library holds an annual conference each year. This is yet another opportunity for professional development.
- The Alberta Library Trustee Association makes available a wide range of learning materials for board members who wish to do some training on their own. You can feel free to check out this website to find out more about library boards in general. <http://www.librarytrustees.ab.ca/>

How do I join?

Town Council makes citizen appointments to agencies, boards and commissions, including Olds Public Library Board. All you need to do is fill out the attached application and drop it off at the town office



Pictures taken on Snapshot Day 2013