

Strathcona County Library Board
Minutes
April 20, 2026
Strathcona County Hall Meeting Room L-1

Board Members in Attendance

Paul Ryzuk
Amy Koskela (Chair)
Rebecca Gagnon
Olubusayo Disu
Keely Cronin
Audrey Powell
Councilor Glen Lawrence

Library Staff

Sharon Siga (Chief Executive Officer)
Anabel Shank (Finance and Administrative Assistant - Minutes)

Regrets with Notice

Lisa Petraschuk
Marla Tonita
Donna Smith

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **6:32 pm** by the Chair.

1.1 Acknowledgement of Meeting Location

Audrey Powell presented the land acknowledgement for the April meeting.

1.2 Select Board Member to Present Land Acknowledgement at the next Board Meeting

Paul Ryzuk will present the land acknowledgment for the May meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Under agenda item 7.2.1 Bill 28 Advocacy Update, a draft letter to the Mayor of Strathcona County was added.

MOTION 30/2026

That the Strathcona County Library Board approve the agenda as amended.

Moved by Olubusayo Disu.

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION 31/2026

That the Strathcona County Library Board approve the minutes of the March 16, 2026 Library Board Meeting.

Moved by Keely Cronin.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

5. Consent Agenda Items

5.1 List of Correspondence: Incoming, Outgoing and Media Releases

5.2 CEO Report

5.3 Minutes of February 9, 2026 Friends of Strathcona County Library Society Meeting

MOTION 32/2026

To accept the consent agenda items for information.

Moved by Rebecca Gagnon.

CARRIED

6. Verbal Reports

6.1 County Councillor Verbal Report

Currently working on strategic planning.

6.2 Chair Verbal Report

Currently focused on advocacy.

MOTION 33/2026

To accept the verbal reports for information.

Moved by Paul Ryzuk.

CARRIED

7. New Business

7.1 Policy Committee Meeting

7.1.1 Draft Minutes of April 9, 2026 Policy Committee Meeting

7.1.2 Draft 2026 Policy Committee Work Plan

MOTION 34/2026

That the Strathcona County Library Board approve the 2026 Policy Committee Work Plan.

Moved by Keely Cronin.

CARRIED

7.1.3 Revise Library Employee Handbook (HR01)

MOTION 35/2026

That the Strathcona County Library Board approve the revisions to the Library Employee Handbook (HR01).

Moved by Audrey Powell.

CARRIED

7.1.4 Revise Employee Learning and Development Policy (HR07)

MOTION 36/2026

That the Strathcona County Library Board approve the revisions to the Employee Learning and Development Policy (HR07).

Moved by Paul Ryzuk.

CARRIED

7.2 Provincial Advocacy Update

At the recent Policy Committee meeting, the Board's endorsement of position statements, including those on intellectual freedom, was discussed. There was consensus by the Board that any position statement endorsed by the Board should be considered when drafting or revising Board policies.

MOTION 37/2026

The Strathcona County Library Board directs the Policy Committee to review the Policy Development Policy (GV02) as it relates to position statement endorsements.

Moved by Keely Cronin.

CARRIED

7.2.1 Bill 28 Advocacy Update

Sharon Siga provided an update on the possible wide-ranging implications regarding the regulations related to Bill 28, the proposed legislation that would amend the Alberta Libraries Act. The Board discussed additional advocacy strategies.

The Board discussed two draft letters: one letter to the Premier and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and one letter to Mayor Frank. The Board asked that in both cases it be made clearer that the wording in the legislation is disproportionately broad and restricting access is censorship.

Councillor Lawrence will recommend that the Strathcona County Council

invite the Library Board to make a presentation to Council on this topic.

7.2.2 Availability over the Summer if the Board Needs to Make Decisions?

Most Board Member will be available over the summer to vote on motions by email or to attend meetings via Zoom meetings.

7.3 Library Branch Option

There was agreement that it would be helpful to have a Board workshop focused on a new library branch. It may work as part of the March 2027 Planning Retreat.

There was discussion about hiring a real estate broker to navigate opportunities and help negotiate.

MOTION 38/2026.

That the Strathcona County Library Board will pass on the Sherwood Park Crusaders Arena opportunity at this time.

Moved by Audrey Powell.

CARRIED

7.4 Connecting with Friends of Strathcona County Library on October 19

Have some Board members attend this meeting to have a meet & greet.

7.5 Area 7 ALTA Representative

No participation at this time.

8. Comments, Announcements, and Other Business

8.1 Public Presentations

8.2 Upcoming Friends Meeting:

May 11 and June 8, 2026

Upcoming Fort Saskatchewan Library Board Get-Together:

June 2, 2026 at 6 pm.

8.3 Board Member Round Robin

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at **8:39 pm**.



Amy Koskela, Chair