

# Friends of the Paonia Library Board

## Annual Meeting Minutes March 18, 2023

### I. Call Meeting to Order

Major called the meeting to order at 3:08 pm.

### II. District Director's Report

The District Board of Trustees has just completed a strategic planning process focusing on priorities for 2023: staffing, community, education, and sustainability plans for all five libraries. It will be shared with the public soon.

Gunn has just filed the state report. Visits are increasing after the pandemic but still not pre-Covid numbers (this includes use of the community room). Physical material use in 2022 was down from 2021 and pre-pandemic. Public computer use is also down, but many folks are checking out hot spots. Attendance at programs has been steady since 2020 but down from pre-pandemic numbers. Active users are on the rise since the pandemic but still lower than pre-pandemic numbers. Student e-cards are higher than ever. Paonia has the highest active users based upon population.

Question about impact of new Paonia Bookstore. No adverse impact. Libraries must always be free, and people need that.

### III. Library Manager's Report

Smith reports that book sale shelf in the foyer brought in \$100 from July – December 2022 . Puzzles have been a hit!

Story time still available. Cedaredge and Hotchkiss have paused story time and are doing less structured, educational play groups.

Thank you, volunteers, who help re-shelve and mend books, maintain bulletin boards, and create 500 take-home activities. It started as Paonia Reads (Blue Sage, Paradise). Now it's Delta County wide. This year students voted for Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. Paradise will show the theaters in the beginning of May. And corresponding activity kits will be available April 1.

Seed library is up, and seeds are flying off the shelves!

Summer Reading Program still in planning stages. Student artwork will be on display at the NFV libraries that corresponds with the theme. This program is always completely fund-raised. Sponsor has already been secured.

Small but mighty staff are serving all three NFV libraries: Sharon, Amita, Kathy, Tori.

Struggling to fill programming positions. Laura Lee was Adult Services Coordinator previously, but it remains unfilled. Thus, Summer Music Series will be paused this summer due to staff shortage.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Weber reports current cash assets around \$21K. Expenses stayed flat, but income was zero during Covid. A few big donations came in and kept the Friends afloat. 2022 net income of \$7300. There were only three book sales. The holiday sale was done by donation only, at the encouragement of Crawford, and this was much more profitable.

V. Landscaping Report

Beezley resigned last year, after doing it for five years. Irrigation was never satisfactory. The original plan was for xeriscaping and low water use. When it came to installation, the company did not implement water-saving measures. As such, it uses a lot of water. The City approached the library several years ago and said it will need to cut down. Irrigation pipe broke on the southwest corner of the building and flooded the children's corner. Some of that needs to be re-done, to have it re-graded and slope away from the building. S&E Ward in Cedaredge think they can plumb French drains or fix the issue more affordably. Always on the lookout for volunteers to help weed and maintain landscaping. Lush Valley did a great job, but they were expensive. Previously prisoners were forced slavery but this stopped with Covid. The program is being re-initiated, so perhaps this will help.

VI. President's Report

Bylaws were simplified and amended. No term limits. Elections do not have to be held at annual meeting.

VII. Adjourn at 3:49.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lesandre Holiday, Secretary