

# Friends of the Paonia Library Board

## Meeting Minutes February 16, 2024

### I. Call Meeting to Order

Major called the meeting to order at 12:03.

Present: Laura Major, Lesandre Holiday, Judy Livingston, Dave Weber, Pamela Stephens, Marjorie True

Guests: Carl Smith, LaDonna Gunn

Livingston reported that Judy Martin is not well. The silent Quaker memorial for Janice Thorup's husband, Paul, is this Sunday at Wisheart Castle at 1 pm.

### II. Minutes from October 6 meeting.

Weber motioned, Livingston seconded, and the minutes were approved.

### III. District Manager's Report

Gunn requested financial aid \$1000-\$1500 for the Summer Reading Program. No request was made last year nor the year before. The District is making this request of all Friends groups and the Delta County Library Foundation. The Bank of Colorado is the primary sponsor this year. The majority of funds go toward the t-shirt incentives and prizes.

Major asked why the County is not giving the Library District its \$50K capital outlay? Gunn says the funds were received but are designated for reimbursement on the cost overruns for Delta Library project (and will be for the next 8 years), which is why it doesn't show in the budget.

Funds are still available to handle capital expenditures on North Fork buildings. \$10k is allocated for resurfacing / striping the Paonia parking lot. Crawford HVAC is done, and its capital outlay is similar this year, as it also has a draining issue. Hotchkiss needed a new condenser, which was fixed just last week.

February 3 was the grand opening of the Makers' Space and the new Delta Library. Next Friday, February 23 is a Delta County Library Foundation fundraiser featuring story telling, cowboy poetry, local wines, cheese, and gift bags from local authors.

### IV. Library Manager's Report

Livingston began with praise for Smith's appearance at Neighborly Neighbors.

Smith thanked the Friends for funding teen programs, and reported that the Paonia Library is almost fully staffed with a lot more programming in the works.

The National Endowment for the Arts started Big Reads, which began as Paonia Reads and evolved into Delta Reads. This year's program begins March 1 and features *The Secret Garden*. Local theaters will screen the film in May.

A magician will again kick off Summer Reading Program. again

Arthur, the teen librarian, has teen writing groups, monthly table top board games, and a Mario Kart tournament. There is also a kite-making workshop and kits to make beautiful spring cards.

Maker programming has ramped up; 150 people participated in the holiday light-up greeting cards; 50 for the snowflake creations. Many programs feature science, engineering, and math concepts like electricity. Kite making is one such program. Montessori sends 60 kids to do maker and after-school programs. Schools are now asking for the libraries to come on site, where they catch more kids.

Some gardening programs will be offered for adults too.

Spoken word, music, and comedy from 6-8 pm on Final Fridays.

There will be a local author talk in March. Smith emphasized that Paonia gets a lot of excellent programming, and the District wants to extend those opportunities to other North Fork Libraries.

The summer concert music series will return in June. Musicians are lined up. Smith and Gunn will follow up with an ask for funds to pay musicians. The idea of food trucks was entertained. Major pointed out that, in the past, selling drinks didn't fare well. Only one fundraiser of selling hot dogs, ice cream, and pie during a military parade performed well.

- V. Shade is a concern, and there was some discussion of the umbrella and implementing a better shade sail solution as well as deciduous tree planting. Gunn says shade sails are not budgeted for the year, so we'll need some EZ-ups and a plan B for the summer music series. Gunn would love to see a plan with options and estimates, so it can be budgeted for 2025.

#### VI. Treasurer Report

Weber emailed financials prior to the meeting. The Friends have \$34K in the bank with good donations in December. A woman in Denver sends \$1K a year and will continue to do so, as Paonia treated her well when she was here.

The folks maintaining the landscaping have yet to send a bill despite repeated requests. There was discussion of giving them an in-kind donation.

The Friends approve \$75 for the Mario Kart tournament prize. The discussion of an Amazon gift card, as opposed to gift cards to the new arcade, book store, Don's, was ultimately approved.

#### VII. Landscaping

Gunn provided a detailed proposal and timeline. There is the \$4500 in capital outlay funds and whatever the Friends donate.

Steve Jones estimates excavation will cost \$2-\$5k and is concerned the three trees may suffer by removing soil.

The District's purchasing process doesn't require a competitive bid process for projects under \$10k, but but they do need to get three contractors to bid. Weber asks if that is required if Friends are funding the project? Gunn will confirm, as the District owns the building.

Holiday and Gunn concur that we should meet with Jones, Kevin Bound, and Larry Beezley. There was discussion of removing the decorative concrete curbing, issues with the sidewalk's relative height, and relocation of soil.

Weber pointed out that gutter ties into Town's storm sewer across the street, which used repurposed sewer pipes. If / when those clog, a lot of water would quickly back up to the Library. We need a diverter to direct runoff to the other side of the library, which is private property currently up for sale. Weber says liability would be on the Town. Still, this is why Jones recommends working with the Town on this project. Jones originally contacted Pioneer Excavating 1.5 years ago, and asked them for a bid. Major suggests Dick Kendall or Roop Excavation. Gunn will speak to the Town.

Major mentions the gutters. The roof does not overlay, so water flows between the roof and the gutter, thus damaging the soffit.

#### VIII. Elections

There is gentle encouragement of Stephens to assume the Presidency, but we stick with the same slate. Holiday Motioned. Weber seconded.

#### IX. Spring Book Sale, Annual Meeting & Potluck

The holiday book sale was sparse on inventory. Once again we're bursting at the seams, so a spring book sale would be beneficial. The group concurred that we'll make these one event.

Thursday, April 18 from 4-5 pm – Setup

Friday, April 19 from 10 am – 5 pm – Spring Book Sale

Saturday, April 20 from 10 am – 3 pm – Book Sale,

3-4 pm Annual Meeting

4-5 pm Potluck

Livingston will make a special invitation to North Fork Senior Connections. True will organize volunteers for book sale. Major will organize volunteers for potluck and invite Crawford Friends.

Major requested a revision date added to the membership brochure; Holiday suggested adding the QR code to website's donate page.

#### X. Next Meeting

The next meeting to plan the Cherry Days Book Sale will be Friday, June 7, 2024 at noon.

#### XI. Book Sorting

True can help with book sorting. Weber said two folks on the gmail list offered to sort books.

#### XII. Summer Reading Program

Holiday motioned to donate \$1500. Major seconded. Motion passed.

Smith says this program combats the 'summer slide' in reading skills, and schools love it, because it reduces the 6-week autumnal lull.

Major inquired about a summer lunch program. Smith worked at other libraries that did this. Smith said it's a wonderful idea to explore with the caveat that it is a lot of work. The demand would quickly rise, and the Library's mission is literacy. Weber said there is a federal program that gives money to parents.

XIII. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lesandre Holiday, Secretary