

Friends of the Paonia Library Board
Meeting Minutes June 7, 2024

I. Call Meeting to Order

Major called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm.

II. Board Members Present: Laura Major, Lesandre Holiday, Pamela Stephens, David Weber, Larry Beezley, Janice Thorup, Marjorie True

Guests: LaDonna Gunn, Carl Smith, Amy & Cliff with Black Canyon Landscape, Jeff with Dynamic Outdoor Spaces (he did the Crawford Library), Steve Ward with S&E Ward, Leon & India with Greenway Pro, Aaron & Wind with Clearwater Designs

III. Request for Proposal (RFP) & Site Visit for Landscaping Design

The landscaping along the south (street) side of the building has been completely removed. A design proposal and estimate is needed by Monday, June 10. Major, Beezley, and Gunn explain the drainage issues and desire for a low maintenance, low water design. The Friends and District do not want weed barrier cloth (except as needed under the dry creek feature) nor a sitting area. It should be engaging to folks walking or driving by.

Amy asks about budget. Gunn says the District has \$10k. Aaron points out that plants alone are \$10k. The Friends also have funds to contribute but do not disclose how much. Major would like bids that include design with and without installation. Because the Library is a publicly funded entity, all designers must be licensed and insured. The goal is to wrap the project this year.

Jeff asks about creative grading, variation in elevation? Gunn and the Board say yes, as long as it meets code requirement 6" below the siding and gradual fall to drains. This has already been done by the excavator. Small topographic changes and berms fine so long as water continues to flow.

All prospective designers, the Friends, and Gunn went outside to look at the site and discuss further.

IV. Approve February 22 Minutes

Weber motions to approve the minutes, and it passes. Weber asks permission to post the minutes on the Friends' website (before they've been approved in the next meeting) when he's posting the financials and performing other maintenance. The Board rarely contests the minutes, and grants permission.

V. Treasurer's Report

Weber reports over \$34k in total equity. Major asks Beezley if he think it's a good value to pay Clear Creek \$650 for mowing the grass (but not the weeds) each summer. Beezley affirms.

VI. Book Barns

Thorup will be gone three weeks, and needs someone to sort books from June 13 through July 5. Stephens will assist and supervise the organization of the barns.

VII. District Manager's Report

Gunn reports that the District Board is in the middle of a 5 year financial forecast which will inform the strategic planning process. The State legislative season has concluded, and is doing the same as it did last year. The State is trying to lower tax obligations despite rising property values. Because the proposed ballot measure failed, emergency legislation to reduce budgets was introduced. The State promised a backfill to library districts and made good on that promise despite doubts. It appears the same will happen this year, as we can expect to see multiple ballot measures that will address property taxes and likely confuse voters.

Delta County Libraries received a grant from the State Office of E-health to purchase telehealth kits to serve patrons that have difficulty getting to the doctor. The kits will be available at all libraries hopefully by July. Each kit will include an internet hotspot, chromebook, scale, blood pressure cuff, and pulse oximeter. Patrons can check out a kit the week prior to their appointment and meet with their doctor from home or a remote location. The District is still working out the first-come-first-serve policy and a marketing plan. Delta is the only rural district with multiple branches. This is a pilot program based on population and poverty levels, and surveys will be conducted with each kit.

The Delta Library and Innovation Workspace was nominated (by somebody else) to receive the Colorado Association of Libraries Award for Innovative Spaces. The winner will be announced in September. Delta Library District has never been nominated, so it is exciting. The Friends recommend the District issue a press release. It is good news for the District and may temper some of the misunderstanding and animosity about the closing of libraries in the North Fork while Delta received a new and renovated space.

VIII. Library Manager's Report

The Summer Reading Program has begun, and Smith thanks the Friends for the donation. The goal is to increase all demographics by 20%. Smith says this won't be difficult, since last year's participation was poor due to limited staff and hours. Smith admits wanting to beat Cedaredge's numbers. The registration numbers are huge, but the completion rates are far less. Adults will help increase the numbers. Thorup suggests a reading hour in the middle of the day during summer heat may help. True asks about connection with Paradise and screening the film? Smith says *The Secret Garden* went well.

There are three book clubs meeting the library. Thorup suggests a mystery or sci fi club, as we have a glut of these available for sale and could give them away.

Smith reports the Touch a Truck event with the Paonia FD yesterday taught fire safety to kids and was a success with close to 80 participants. Events like these bring in some kids who don't come for literacy but still make a connection with the library. The magician the day before brought in 90 kids (thanks in part to the Friends' donation).

The Summer Music Series is going well, though Smith is concerned about the shade. The musicians were okay, but the audience roasts. After continued research, it does not appear shade sails can be anchored into the side of the building. There needs to be a vertical shade or wall on the west side to effectively shade the outdoor space. Smith is reconsidering the monolithic post in the center of the performance area and replacing its shade. Stephens suggest misters for the audience. Smith says these are in place and helpful.

Friday night Open Mic Night taking off, thanks to Cathy's amazing adult programming.

The Paonia Library is now fully staffed with Ben Lehman and Ben Benteley aboard. Soon Hotchkiss will be open 3 days a week and Crawford 2 days a week.

IX. Landscaping

Holiday questions if xeriscaping is low maintenance? Beezley says anything low water use will decrease maintenance. Weeds respond to water more than anything else. Weber says wife Karen did xeriscaping in Santa Fe. This created more cost up front, but lower maintenance.

Everyone is keen on educational element proposed by Wind of Clearwater designs. Crawford is doing that with their new landscaping. Kids love rocks. An unfragile (native) landscape invites kids to play and interact. Holiday expresses concern that this was not made clear to the wider group of interested designers and asks Major to clarify this.

There was discussion of the District's or State's requirement for a licensed landscape architect to do the design. Crawford didn't have a landscape designer, but they were only replanting, not designing.

X. Cherry Days Book Sale

The book sale will be held Friday and Saturday, July 5-6 from 10 am to 5 pm. Setup will be on Wednesday, July 3 from 4-5 pm, as the Library will be closed on Thursday, the Fourth of July.

XI. Annual Meeting Discussion

Major asks for feedback about combining the Spring Book Sale with the Annual Meeting.

Stephens' concern is that it rushed cleanup of the sale. Numbers fell off the rolling shelves, and it made a mess for Thorup.

Everyone else concurs that it was too much with the book sale, and the two should be separate events.

XII. Absent Members

Schulz has not been in attendance. Should we ask her to resign? Major will speak with her.

XIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Friday, September 6 at noon.

XIV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lesandre Holiday, Secretary