

Friends of the Paonia Library Board
Meeting Minutes August 30, 2024

I. Call Meeting to Order

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

II. Board Members Present: Laura Major, Lesandre Holiday, Judy Livingston, Janice Thorup, Marjorie True, Larry Beezley, Jane Schulz

Guests: LaDonna Gunn, Carl Smith, Teresa Shishim, Aaron Byram with Clearwater Designs, Seth Weber

III. Approval June 7 Minutes

Thorup motions to approve the minutes. Livingston seconds, and the motion carries.

IV. Seth Weber Installation

Seth Weber has been doing public art in Paonia for nearly 20 years. He wants to do an installation that brings awareness to child neglect and welfare. The libraries are adopting this programming as well. People think poverty doesn't exist in our backyard, but 8+ kids a day are dumped into the system; 70% are infants. There's not a single foster home in the NFV.

Tin ceiling tiles from the old library will be incorporated into the work along with other reclaimed metals. Like the castaway materials, children are being reclaimed and given new life. Weber has already secured funding from private donors, the Rotary Club and perhaps some grant funding from Western Colorado Community Foundation.

There are two design options: 1) a sculpture of five slightly larger than life-size children holding a globe that would be incorporated into the landscaping or 2) a panel of reclaimed metal with a mural on top that would be mounted on a large wall. The sculpture will be visible from within the library; the mural would not. Either piece will have a plaque explaining its purpose and encouraging visitors to inquire with the staff inside about child welfare resources.

Holiday asks Byram for his opinion about the sculpture's location. Byram thinks it will be easy to fit it in the landscape design so long as everyone can agree. Weber points out that the painted doors on the back lawn were vandalized more than any other art, and he'd like to see this piece in the front of the building. Byram and Weber are good friends and excited to collaborate.

Everyone agrees that different ethnicities and abilities should be represented. Holiday motions to approve the globe design. Livingston seconds. The motion carries unopposed.

Byram will provide an updated design after the Labor Day weekend. Weber will have other donors give to the Friends so they may receive a tax deductible receipt.

V. Landscaping

Byram suggests putting the sculpture in front of the windows or the entrance by the telephone pole. However, the latter location will fight with the existing bronze sculpture and won't be visible inside the building.

Major asks if we move some boulders from the back lawn to the front to reduce on material cost. Shishim suggests CDOT; they will often give rocks, especially to a library. Holiday will ask Kevin Bound about a donation of Needlerock boulders.

Gunn asks about long term maintenance. Byram says weeds will always be an issue and will begin next autumn 2025 and spring of 2026. We won't have to do any plant maintenance until autumn of 2025. Byram will develop a schedule to aid the Friends and District.

Gunn asks about timeline. Byram pre-emptively cleared his schedule for September.

The District still has \$7200 to contribute to the landscaping. The Friends can afford the rest. Major asks how we handle the contract. Gunn says the District will pay Clearwater, and the Friends will reimburse the District.

Holiday motions to pre-emptively approve the design and quote with the understanding that the design will be slightly changed to accommodate Weber's sculpture. Byram will keep the 130 plants but trim the boulder cost. Byram estimates the final cost to be \$29K. Beezley seconds, and the motion carries unanimously. Because it was already budgeted, there's no need for District Board approval.

There is some discussion of keeping the fire lane or incorporating the space into the landscaping. Gunn confirms that a fire lane is not legally required. Thorup motions to keep the fire lane to serve the book barns. Holiday seconds. The motion carries, opposed only by Major.

VI. District Manager's Report

The District Board is finishing up its Strategic Plan. Two financial forecasts have been completed. At the September 18 meeting, the Board is proposing a balanced budget, all open libraries, and a goal of collaboration with Delta County Library Foundation and Friends groups. Gunn provided a copy of United for Libraries "Short Takes for Trustees," a guide to help Boards work effectively with Friends groups. Gunn explains that the District and Friends have had many verbal agreements. This creates misunderstanding or conflict when Boards change over. Such agreements with Friends and the two different Foundations need to be in writing. Included in the packet from Gunn is a sample MOU. The District will be more formal in its funding requests. Gunn says the District is organizing a Friends, Foundations, and Trustees gathering for end of October. Crawford has offered to host.

Gunn meets annually with the Head of Maintenance about each library and gives advance notice of the 2025 budget. Next year's focus will be the exterior shades. Additionally, both sides of the bamboo fence need to re-oiled. Posts and cross-posts need to be repainted. Trees also need trimming. The geothermal compressors and pumps are working well but approaching the end of their expected life. We are "comfortable for another couple years." Fortunately, when one fails, we will know ahead of time, which was the case with Crawford. The District will request \$6500 for maintenance along with a contribution for the Summer Reading Program and Summer Concert Series, totaling approximately \$8000.

The horrible roof leak in the spring 2017 is not on a capital repair project. Both contractors' best guesses concurred that that roof's interior membrane had condensation from freezing and melting, causing water to flow down the interior wall. It's a design flaw, but one that has yet to re-occur. If / when we have heavy snowfall, we may want to have someone shovel the roof.

VII. Library Manager's Report

Smith reports that the Summer Reading Program was a huge success with excellent participation.

The library is working with schools to offer STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Math) programming and maker projects again. Recently, kids built marble runs. Paonia K-8 and NFSIS come in every month.

Arthur got 13 teenage boys at the Mario Cart Tournament, many of whom routinely return to the library.

Kathy has great adult programming (20 or more adults come to neuro movement). The concert series was a hit again. The library is partnering with other organizations to pair job skills and training along with a voucher to Dress for Success and get nice clothes for interviews or jobs from thrift stores.

Schulz marvels at the comeback of libraries post Covid. Gunn speaks of the library as a three legged stool comprised of Collections, Services and Programs. If one is missing, the stool topples. What holds all of it up is the staff. Now that we have enough staff, the Programming is back.

VIII. Treasurer's Report

Thorup motions we cash in the \$15K CD to pay for the landscaping. Major seconds, and the motion carries. After we complete the landscaping project, we'll still have \$19K!

IX. Harvest Fest Book Sale

Setup will be 7 pm on Thursday, September 26. The sale is Friday and Saturday, September 27-28 from 10 am-5 pm.

Thorup questions if we should have a landscaping campaign at the Book Sale. Thorup and Holiday will make a flyer explaining the need for the renovation and encourage donations.

X. Holiday Book Sale and Next Meeting

The NF Creative Coalition has not announced the dates for the Holiday Fair, so we are unable to finalize a date for the Holiday Book Sale. The next meeting will be Friday, November 22 at noon.

XI. Shade Sails

After much research by Smith and staff, we will keep the central umbrella pole. The umbrella's seams came undone first, then the fabric was damaged. In 2021 Sarah Smith had Shadescapes look at the umbrella fabric. The part was still available; hopefully it still is.

The shade sails were installed in 2009 or 2010. By 2016 there were major problems. Some have been repaired by staff member, Becca, and can be used. Some will need replacement. These are critical for any outdoor programming for kids in the summer. The sails don't offer much shade in the evening for the concert series, however.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourns at 2:47 pm.

XIII. Addendum

Congratulations to the District & Delta Library Innovation Workspace which won the CAL Innovative Spaces award from the Colorado Association of Libraries.

Respectfully submitted,
Lesandre Holiday, Secretary