

Friends of the Paonia Library Board
Meeting Minutes November 22, 2024

I. Call Meeting to Order

Major called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm.

II. Board Members Present: Laura Major, Lesandre Holiday, Judy Livingston, Janice Thorup, Pamela Stephens

Guests: LaDonna Gunn, Arthur Harriman, Teresa Shishim, member Terra Hegy

Hegy became a member over a year ago but was never contacted nor received information of events. The Friends could be welcoming and / or engaging its membership more effectively.

III. Approval August Minutes

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

IV. Feedback on the Landscaping Project

Shishim says everybody has spoken favorably about it and are enjoying it. Gunn has received many inquiries as to who performed the work, so Aaron Byram at Clearwater Designs will likely receive more work as a result. Byram will be providing a map of the garden to identify plants.

Shishim asks for an update on the sculpture? Gunn and Major say the metal has arrived, but it won't be completed until the new year. Thorup asks if the vinyl banner should stay up? Holiday suggests modifying the verbiage to say something like "Stay Tuned" or "But Wait, There's More!"

V. District Director's Report

Gunn thanks Harriman for stepping in as the interim manager for all North Fork Libraries while maintaining his role as teen programmer. Applications are being accepted for the manager position, and the deadline is next Monday. There are already a couple strong applicants.

Shira (children's programming) has been accepted to university in Wales and will be leaving in a week.

Gunn provides numbers for book sales. August sales were only \$8, September \$23, and October \$44. Thorup believes somebody was pinching money from the donation box in the foyer. Somebody taped the box shut, which seems to have ameliorated the problem. Holiday will donate a metal lock box.

Gunn reports that the libraries will soon accept credit card payments. Hopefully it will be in place by the end of the year. However, training is a challenge during the holidays.

The goal for the Summer Reading Program was to increase its completion rate, and it was a success. Of 773 registrants, there were 407 completions – a 53% completion rate, the highest in the last 6-7 years since the District started tracking SRP data. The success is attributed to lots of good programming. Word of mouth is the best advertising in Delta.

VI. Library Manager's Report

Tech Tuesdays began in October. Patrons can receive one-on-one help with librarians. Staff served over 15 patrons so far.

The library has partnered with local teacher Natalie Hines to offer theater games once a month for the next three months. The event sees an average of five kids, ages 8-12. The next event will be December 11.

Children's librarians had a successful Slime Time event. Forty kids plus parents attended. The room filled up, and there was a queue outside. Slime is made of Elmers Glue with various activators and even toys that pop out. "You might think it's goop, but it's snot." Staff did an excellent job minimizing the mess, with only some slime on doors.

The wand making event was also a success, with over 20 kids. Each wand included an LED and some electrical work.

The open mic continues to be popular despite moving indoors. Ten patrons (story tellers, poets, authors, musicians) routinely attend and support each other. The next open mic will be November 29.

Harriman tried a one-off program for swing dance with Becca Scalero (who is also a ballet teacher). Eleven people attended and are looking forward to the next one in January. It was a great event with a wide range of ages and rotating partners.

The library also held a two-day Magic Card event. Harriman feels it is one of the library's most successful events with a direct tie to literacy. Each card has written abilities. Kids must read their cards, their opponents' cards, do some math. "Lots of learning skills built into mechanics of the game." This was proven that night when one kid ran to another kid and said, "Here, you have to read this." The first night, kids built their decks and learned how to play; 14 were in attendance, and 11 returned for the second day's tournament, which included prizes.

Crafty Fingers (finger knitting) will be on December 18.

Thorup suggests inviting middle or high schools to assist with Tech Tuesdays and foster intergenerational community. Harriman has put the ask out but has not received much response. Furthermore, the time would have to be adjusted to after-school hours.

VII. Treasurer's Report

Weber is not present but sent the financials prior to the meeting. There are no questions.

Major says the \$267 excess on the landscaping bill was for flowers (rugged rosemary, thyme) she requested for the front sculpture. Byram added it to the bill, and the Friends paid it. Major will reimburse the Friends.

Major asks about donation from Ela family that could perhaps serve the garden surrounding the ballerina sculpture. Gunn will follow-up.

VIII. Book Barn

Harriman and staff have done an excellent job vetting book donations and limiting 2 boxes per person resulting in less junk for the Friends to sort. Thorup has an updated list in the foyer of who else accepts books. Shishim suggests listing the various lending libraries around town.

Thorup will be gone Decembver 16-30. Stephens and Major will keep an eye on books.

Major asks if we should paint the trim on the soft book barn?

IX. Holiday Book Sale

Setup will be 5 pm Thursday, December 5. The sale runs from 10-5 on Friday and Saturday, December 6-7.

Livingston and Major will bring Keurig coffee maker and pods. Major will send an email to all members inviting them to contribute baked goods for the sale. Holiday says she will get the holiday jazz playlist on Spotify, send the link to everybody, and supply a Bluetooth speaker. Major will also setup the signs. The cash box is in the soft book barn.

After discussion of access to the community room closet, Gunn will inquire for a door key for the Friends.

X. Marketing, Printing, Volunteers, Setup

Holiday thanks Katie Delaney at the District for creating the holiday flyer and Kathy Pettit for printing it. Moving forward, all events should be submitted to the manager who will submit the JotForm. Shishim, who will soon be retiring from the District Board, is a graphic designer but will coordinate with Delaney for marketing all future events.

XI. Time & Date for Next Meeting

We will meet Friday, February 28, 2025 at noon to plan the annual meeting.

The annual meeting and potluck will be Saturday, March 22 from 3-6 pm.

Setup for the spring book sale will be Thursday, April 3 at 4 pm. The book sale will run from 10-5 pm Friday and Saturday, April 4-5.

XII. Meeting with Crawford Friends

Major reads a letter from Susan Hansen of the Crawford Friends inviting us to an informal Friends gathering at Crawford Library after their Cabin Fever book sale.

We all agree we'd like to attend. Major will reply with suggested dates that work around our other meetings. Stephens says she'd like to discuss ways to recruit more volunteers and Board members. Somebody else suggests using name tags and sharing a contact list for the meeting. Holiday would like the groups to discuss what books move (and don't) at sales and codify an exchange of materials that will serve other groups better. Shishim suggests the Friends appoint a rep (or a system for someone) to attend and report to the District Board.

XIII. Friends Rep to District Board

Major volunteers. Stephens has attended the last two, and will pinch-hit. Major asks if there needs to be a formal appointment among the organization. Gunn says somebody to attend and represent each month helpful, but that updates are only necessary after a Friends' event or meeting, not necessarily every month. Gunn encourages getting "all stakeholders on the same page... to assess the library landscape." There are four Friends group, the District Foundation, the Cedaredge Foundation, and the District itself. These seven groups are somewhat in competition with each and could be working more harmoniously.

XIV. Shade Sails

Major says Willy Goat is a dead end. ShadeScapes said the poles in the grass were installed incorrectly, and they'd have to be re-done, and we'll have to reposition them or get new ones.

Thorup suggests The Natural Home in Denver that customizes sails for your needs. She has had great success with hers. <https://www.thenaturalhome.com/shadecloth/>

Somebody suggests a Sun Study. Shishim says Holly Weelock, a local architect, might be willing to take a look and help point us in the right direction. Shishim will contact her.

Gunn reminds us that shade sails have been budgeted by the District, so the District must approve the repairs. Major says grants are available through United for Libraries and intends to apply before the February deadline. She needs quotes first and matching funds.

XV. Elections

We can postpone to the next meeting. According to our bylaws, "The Board elects officers at its regular meeting that precedes and plans the annual meeting. The officers are introduced and take office at the annual meeting and serve until the Board elects their successors."

Gunn thanks us for sharing our bylaws to help the Delta Friends update theirs.

XVI. Adjourn

We adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lesandre Holiday, Secretary