

Paonia Friends of the Library

Board Meeting

November 7, 2025

Members Present: Pam Stephens, Laura Major, David Weber, Janice Thorup, Jon Schulz,, Judy Livingston
Guests: Arthur Harriman, LaDonna Gunn, Lesandre Holliday

Absent: Jane Schulz, Teresa Shishim, Marjorie True

- I. Call Meeting to Order
Stephens called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.
- II. Changes to Agenda
Jon Shulz said that Jane Schulz was resigning from the board for health reasons.
- III. Introduce guests
Library Manager Arthur Harriman. District Director LaDonna Gunn, District Board Member from Paonia Lesandre Holliday
- IV. Minutes from September 5, 2025
Weber moved that the minutes be approved. Thorup seconded. The motion carried.
- V. Landscaping
 - a. Harriman reported that he arranged with Paonia Tree Service to have the trees trimmed. Perhaps next week.
 - b. North side of Library-Stephens spoke with Aaron Byrum of Clearwater Design. He won't have time until the spring to talk with us about a design.
- VI. District Director's Report
Proposed budget. The latest tax law imposes a growth limit on taxes which the District must consider when budgeting. Other Districts have gone to the voters to ask that the Library Districts be allowed to ignore the limitation. Other districts have gone to voters; Montrose failed miserably.

Expenses have increased 25%. Managing this increase will require reducing computers and staff equipment, as well as currier frequency.

The trend, as in most libraries, is that usage of physical items is going down, while usage of E items is going up.

The Immediate needs for the Paonia Library that the Friends can help with are:
 - a. \$3000 for shades in the community room
 - b. \$6000 to change the parking lot lights to meet dark skies requirements
 - c. \$10,000 to resurface the parking lot
 - d. \$2400 to replace the stones in the amphitheater that are falling apart
 - e. \$6000 to replace the fence behind the dumpster
 - f. \$1500 to freshen up the youth area.

If we wanted a new sign like the one just installed at the Crawford Library, that would run about \$15000.

The above are small capital projects, but we need also to consider that in 2029 the library will need a new roof, which will cost around \$50000.

The Paonia library geothermal system can't keep up with changes in temperature so we could consider adding solar to the roof in 2030 which will run about \$30,000. There are opportunities for solar grants that are a better bet than grants for the whole roof.

All things considered, it would be helpful if the Friends would begin to set aside funds now for larger 2029/2030 capital projects. However, the District could use help for lesser needs now.

We can't remove the pathways in the side yard according to our contract with Paonia, because those paths are on town lots..

The Friends can put out a request for funds in our newsletter – but we should wait until the District budget is more solid.

The Paonia Library was named in a trust by Vivien Cheney. She gave the District \$28,000 to be used just for Paonia.

Gunn will send the Friends Board a digital list of the items they would like us to purchase.

VII. Library Manager's Report.

The staff would like to refresh the children's area with a couch, a bookshelf to separate genres, and another toy cart so the kids can have access to toys and the staff can still have a cart that fits into the closet.

There were 29 people at last month's open mike.

A new program for kids is magic cards, which Paonia switches around with other libraries. The cards were donated from a place in Grand Junction.

Harriman is resigning; today is his last day. So far there is no mention of a new manager for Paonia, but it will be well supported by the other 3 managers. The current staff is quite tight and works well together, so perhaps a new manager will not be immediately necessary.

VIII. Treasurer's Report

Donna DuHadway usually gives us a donation of \$1000 every year. This year she donated \$2500 and told us she gives us money because the library was nice to her when she lived here years ago. Lee Overton put us in her will and we will get \$10,000 when her house sells.

We made about \$20,000 this year in donations.

- IX. Public Relations Report
Weber moved to give Creative Coalition \$125 for the holiday publication. Livingston seconded. Motion carried.
- X. Book Barn
Donations are down.
- XI. Holiday Fair Book Sale
a. Friday-Saturday, December 5-6. Set up Thursday. 5 pm. Take down at 5 on Saturday.
b. We need volunteers for setup, takedown, and treats. The District creates our poster and the library prints it. The poster will be done by November 15.
c. Thorup suggested Lynn Mattingly take over calling for volunteers.
- XII. Bank Balance
Thorup asked when the District needs to know how much and on what the Friends will help finance—not before January or February. When we get the digital list, we will rank what we want, then have a special meeting just to discuss donations.
- XIII. Date of next meeting.
The Annual Meeting and potluck will be March 21.
The next regular meeting is March 6, 12 – 2. We will fix a date for the spring book sale then.
- XIV. Adjourn
Major moved and Thorup seconded that we adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Major, Secretary