

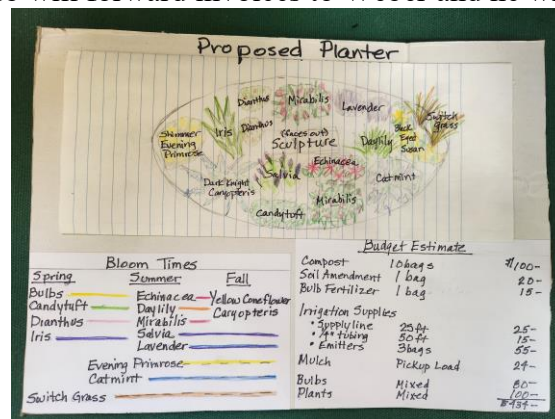
Paonia Friends of the Library Board Meeting Sept 11, 2026

Members Present: Pam Stephens, Laura Major, David Weber, , Marjorie True, Teresa Shishm, Jon Shultz

Guests: Nathan Franklin, Charlotte Minor, Wind Clearwater

Absent: Janice Thorup, Judy Livingston

- I. Call Meeting to Order
Stephens called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.
- II. Changes to Agenda
Major requested we discuss a change to the bylaws and add Wind and Charlotte under landscaping.
- III. Introduce guests
Library Manager Nathan Franklin representative from the Paonia Gardening Club, Charlotte Minor; and the owner of Clearwater Designs, Wind Clearwater.
- IV. Minutes from June 12, 2026
The minutes were approved.
- V. Landscaping
 - a Charlotte explained that the Paonia Garden Club had many new members and were looking around for some new projects. They are responsible for upkeep of the planters on Grand Avenue in Paonia. Thorup recommended they talk to the Friends about helping with our landscaping, so Minor and Major met and decided the statue garden would be a good fit. They've done a pretty good job with weeding, but so far haven't undertaken any major changes. Now they would like to rebuild the soil and fix or improve the irrigation and add some new plants, with an emphasis on xeric, native plants. She had a design for the changes they want to make. Minor requested money for compost and plants. Weber moved and Shultz seconded that we grant the Paonia Garden Club up to \$500. The motion carried. The Garden Club will forward invoices to Weber and he will refund them the money.



- b Wind Clearwater attended the meeting at Major's request, since he seems to have assumed ownership of Clearwater Designs. He had sold the company to Aaron Byrum, who did the landscaping on the west side of the building. Aaron had submitted a design for the east side, but since then has stepped away from landscaping to become a pastor and teacher. Wind indicated he would be interested in taking over the project since he saw it as a good way to advertise the benefits

of native, xeric plants. He and Aaron have worked closely in the past and he was favorably impressed with Aaron's design. Since he runs a nursery, he can also supply, or source, all the plants needed. He'll get back to us with a cost estimate.

There followed a lengthy discussion on signage for the gardens, with suggestions ranging from simple plant identification to more lengthy explanations of plant values and uses, as well as planting information. All the ideas are great but need to be postponed until the planting is done and we see what fits best. Important to note, however, is the enthusiasm with which the board approaches the importance of continuing to educate the public.

VI. District Director's Report

Gunn wasn't present, so there was no Director's report. However, note that the new shades are up and the new chairs are in.

VII. Library Manager's Report.

Franklin reported that ideas for several new programs have been circulated: line dancing, conversational Spanish, and genealogy. So far, the concept of a tool library is still on hold. There will be a luncheon for the library volunteers sometime in November.

He reported that there seems to be a greater number of school age kids coming to the library after school than in the past, so perhaps it's getting the reputation of a cool place to be.

Shultz said how much he enjoyed the coffee klatch on Wednesday mornings, which appears to be growing in popularity.

Franklin asked if there was room in the tool shed for the other library cart, similar to the one we already use. Major said she didn't think there was enough room but to ask Thorup since she is the main user of that shed.

VIII. Treasurer's Report.

Weber reported that we're in great shape financially. He recommended we put another \$10,000 into CD 1. Shishm moved and Shultz seconded that we do that. The motion carried.

IX. Public Relations Report.

Shishm reported that the flyer for the next book sale is ready. True and Major will help distribute in Hotchkiss and Crawford. Shishm will take over the responsibility for putting ads in the Shopper and on KVNF, since Stephens is resigning her position on the board. She will also see that it gets put on the District calendar.

Jon Shulz reported that he is a member of Rotary and had asked Kathy Petit to give a talk about the library. She did a wonderful job.

X. Book Barn

Thorup is away until after the book sale. Stephens is helping with the donated books until she returns.

XI. Harvest Fest Book Sale

- a. Friday-Saturday, September 24, 25 (10AM-5PM each day)
- b. Set up at 4pm on September 23.
- c. Lynn Mattingly to call for volunteers (set up and sales).

- XII. Date of next meeting.
Nov. 13, 2026 at noon.
- XIII. Bylaws
Major suggested that we need to add something to the bylaws about what would happen to our money in the event the Friends dissolve. Suggestions were that we would leave it to the District Foundation to be used for the Paonia Library. Or we could set up something with the WCCF so that interest from the investments would be given to the library each year. Cedaredge uses the WCCF, but the interest is given to the Cedaredge Library Foundation. The Paonia Friends are the Foundation, but they could shrink back to being only a foundation, which wouldn't require as much effort as the Friends. Major offered to write a couple of additions to the bylaws for consideration.
- XIV. Miscellaneous
With the resignation of Pam Stephens, we are looking for new members. Weber said that Karen Fogg would consider becoming a board member. However he voiced his concern over her becoming an officer, since she is his wife and both would have signatory powers on the bank accounts. (As an aside from me, the idea of anyone feeling they could assume power through the Friends tickled my funny bone.)
- XV. Adjourn
We adjourned at 1:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Major, Secretary