Paonia Friends of the Library
Board Meeting
November 13, 2026

Members Present: Laura Major, David Weber, Teresa Shishim, Jon Shulz, Janice Thorup
Guests: District Director LaDonna Gunn, Library Staff John Major, District Representative Lesandre Barley, Karen Fogg,
Absent: Marjorie True, Judy Livingston

I. Call Meeting to Order
Major called the meeting to order at 12:05 noon.

II. Changes to Agenda.
There were no changes to the agenda.

III. Introduce guests
Karen Fogg is attending the meeting in the interest of becoming a board member.

IV. Minutes from Sept 11, 2026
Weber moved and Shishim seconded that the minutes be approved. Motion carried

V. New Board Members
Fogg is visiting with the intention of becoming a board member. Weber mentioned that she already does a lot for us by keeping the Friends website up to date. Thorup moved and Shishim seconded that we elect Fogg as a member of the Board. Welcome Karen.

VI. District Director's Report
Gunn announced that John Major will be the new Paonia Library manager, starting in December. He has already worked for the District as IT two years.

Gunn passed out the strategic plan that has been developed by the District Board in conjunction with District staff. They interview 76 community leaders about what they saw as the needs and strengths of their community.(Nobody interviewed me.) You can see the Strategic Plan on the District's website under Mission and Vision. The interviewers heard a lot about the need for partnerships between/among community stakeholders. Thorup asked what the library contributes to emergency preparedness? The District has a partnership with Delta Health and has made its buildings available as cooling spots for those in danger because of heat. The libraries also offer opportunity for meeting spaces.

Gunn then presented the current draft of the 2027 budget, which is a deficit budget as it has been for the last 4 years. Everything is more expensive, but revenue has not increased equally. As an example, the amount the District pays for health insurance has increased by 33% and that's only because the District gets discounts that aren't available to the public. General operating costs will increase 5-7%. The voters approved the District request that the government release money held because of property tax increases, which the government only did for one year. The only way the District can retain money is to have an election to ask the voters if we can waive 5 ¼% revenue cap. Or we can ask for a mill levy increase.

Because the District is short of funds, Gunn expects to ask for between $29-30,000 from the Friends.

The most pressing expense for the Paonia Library this year will be to repair one of the furnaces. The Paonia library was built in 2009 and is the most expensive plant in the District. This year the water heater was replaced. Unfortunately, the geothermal heating system has resulted in high electric bills. The District called in a specialist to look at the system and all five of the furnaces are coming to the end of their lives; one is currently failing. It will cost $20,000 per furnace to replace them. One furnace will need to be fixed/replaced this year. She is looking at the possibility of just switching off the geothermal system and using gas or electric. (At this point, the Friends would rather fund electric and, ultimately, solar rather than gas.). Schulz asked if anyone had looked at the setting on the thermostats to make sure they weren't being fiddled with. Apparently, the thermostats have locked cages on them, but there has been some deviation from prescribed settings. Not enough to result in the excessive electricity costs. The high ceilings are certainly an issue and fans might help. Weber requested that we be given a copy of the furnace inspector's report.

Barley passed out a sheet showing that revenue is down since 2010, but expenses have steadily increased. She said the District-Board agreed that they will not cut hours or wages.

Gunn explained that the roof will need to be replaced in a couple of years. Not only is it coming to the end of its warrantied life, but it has also had a leak. Fogg asked if the leak has repeated itself in this last episode of heavy rains. We haven't had the same conditions as those that caused the leak, but we know there's a leak. Shishim suggested it was probably an ice jam. A new roof-will cost between $60-70,000 Solar will cost about $150,000. And we need to paint the concrete part of the building -- $ 20,000. In the past, the District board just did the repairs as they were needed but have since decided to take a proactive approach to repairs so they can estimate how much to budget.

The Friends can still ask for help at book sale. Barley suggested that an overwhelming list might alert patrons to the fix we're in, but it must be put in the right order of priorities, since we've been emphasizing landscaping and now, apparently all of a sudden, we're in dire need to keep the building standing.

The District Board is looking at MOUs again, because it helps them gauge what the priorities are for the District and the Friends. Weber said that the problem with the last MOU offered to us was that it suggested the Friends had no autonomy. That has to change and we need to be equal partners with the District. Gunn said we should think of what we would accept as an agreement. Barley and Gunn suggested we have a work session with the District Board to hash over the thorny issues and the possibility of a partnership.

In 2026 the District asked that the Friends to pay for blinds, lights, fence repair, amphitheater repair, and children's furniture. The blinds came out as more expensive than asked. We preapproved all the expenses. Shishim moved and Thorup seconded that we pay the full amount of $3000 for the blinds. The motion carried.

VII. Landscaping

Weber reiterated that our prime job is to keep up the landscaping. We mut look at where our money is coming from and where it is going. If we nix the landscaping project our donations might dry up. Also, Wind is beginning to ask for updates on our plans, since he is already scheduling next year. We can't tell him anything until the District Board gives us the go-ahead on our landscaping. Barley suggested that they might be able to vote on it at this month's meeting.

Gunn pointed out that the irrigation is also 20 years old and will need to be replaced. That is in our plans, but not for this year.

VIII. Treasurer's Report.
Thorup asked if we have enough money to do it all. Weber reported that we have enough money to cover the furnace and landscaping. Shishim would like to see commemorative plaques for the WSCC, Lee Overton, the Berg Foundation, and the Garden Club.

IX. Public Relations Report.
The last book sale brought in nine new signups for the newsletter. Fogg will help post the next book sale flyers in Paonia; Major will cover Hotchkiss and Crawford. flyers. The Creative Coalition is running us in their advertising. They might ask us for a donation, but there seems to be some confusion about how many times they have asked. Barley said they give nonprofits a reduced rate if they advertise for three events Will they give us a nonprofit rate for two events? Fogg will put the sale on the Paonia Message Board. Shishim will put it on the Shopper's digital calendar and on KVNF.

X. Book Barn
Thorup will be here for the book sale but not for the rest of December. Major will shelve donations in the book barn for December.

XI. Christmas Book Sale
a. Friday-Saturday, December, 4, 5 (10AM-5PM each day)
b. Set up at 4 pm Thursday, December 3
c. Lynn Mattingly to call for volunteers (set up, sales, and cookies). She doesn't have to ask the same people to do sales and cookies.

XII. Changes to bylaws
Major had emailed the wording in the Articles of Incorporation that dealt with the disbanding of the Friends. The only question she had was did we want to stipulate in our bylaws which nonprofit we wanted any remaining money (as if) to be left to. The consensus was to just leave that decision to the Board that decides to dissolve.

XIII. Next meeting
Feb.5, 12 noon to plan the annual meeting and the spring book sale. Major reminded the Board that we would also need to have elections at that meeting.

XIV. Adjourn
We adjourned at 2 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Major, Secretary