

Friends of the Casa Grande Public Library
Board of Directors Meeting
January 13, 2025

Present: Bonnie Warren, Richard Flechtner, Lisa Morris-Wilkey, Mary Jane Cedar Face (Zoom), Grace McMillin, Tina Packard, Sue Reeves (Zoom), Michael Ouellette, Amber Kent (Library), Beverly Reidy (guest), Barb Brown, Dawnel Connelly (guest), Jody Wendt, Sue Eberle, Kevin Fahey (Library), Michelle Mata (Library)

Absent:

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

2. Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting – December 5, 2024

Motion to approve minutes by Richard Flechtner. Second by Jody Wendt. Approved.

3. Treasurer's Report (Bonnie Warren)

a) Budget 2025

This has not changed since December draft. Move to approve by Barb Brown. Second by Grace McMillin. Approved.

b) Book Sale Update

We are sorting books and setting up tomorrow and Thursday, January 14 and 16. The hangar is cold; wear layers. As we sort books, Bonnie will set aside some for Valentine's Day book bundles. We need more flyers, and the forklift moved. The switches for the lights should work. Sue Eberle will check. Sue E. said we can keep the gate on the south side open during the sale and we will put up a banner. Bonnie and other folks will be out there tomorrow. We need to be out of the hangar the week after the sale to allow time for setting up for Sue Eberle's estate sale. Prison staff come Monday, January 27 from 10-3. On Tuesday we will box the remaining books and either toss or move better quality books into the kitchen. Amber will get us a Hotspot. Tina said we can use Verizon there also for Wi-Fi access. Missionaries are moving books from Vista this Thursday, 1/16. Pizza lunch for everyone. Bonnie will get the cash register from Main. Monday, January 20 will be the last day we have to go out there for setup. Tina will put directional signs up. We need to get flyers delivered to 50+ communities, senior center, etc. We need a volunteer for this. We can use GiveButter and Square. Tina thinks we can use Zelle and Venmo if we want. Recyclops is no longer taking hardcover books and paperback recycling is also a problem. Operation Book Support is an option to consider for unsold books, but they only accept some books after scanning and it may not be much better than ThriftBooks.

4. Librarian's Report (Amber Kent)

Community Conversation at the Friends Meeting

Library staff will attend the meeting today so FOL board members can participate in a community conversation as part of a larger outreach initiative the library has conducted over the past month

with local agencies. The library will continue gathering feedback through February and possibly into March. In addition to outreach visits, there will be a patron survey, staff survey, and demographic analysis. Once all data is collected, staff will analyze it to set strategic goals for the next 3–5 years. Results will be compiled, printed, and shared with all participating partners. This project is not just about strategic planning; it is also about training staff to effectively conduct outreach. A lot of time and effort has gone into ensuring these visits are positive and meaningful.

Upcoming Programs and Events

Several programs are planned for the next few months. For example, at the Living Library Event, the library is partnering with CGUHSD and the nonprofit Quiet Waters to host a Living Library event on Wednesday, March 26, at Vista Grande Library. Volunteers will portray influential women from history. If this event is successful, we are planning a similar program in November focused on veterans. From April 17–23, the library is hosting a student art exhibit in partnership with Mesquite Elementary at the Main Library. The library held this event two years ago, and it was a success. The exhibit's opening night will be on Thursday, April 17, at 6:00 p.m., featuring remarks from the mayor and school administrators. Students and their families are invited, as well as FOL board members.

5. President's Report (Tina Packard)

a) 2024 Annual Report

Tina prepared a 2024 Annual Report. She is emailing it to board members and posting it on the FOL website. She shared it briefly at the end of the meeting.

b) March 26th Chamber Event – 4:45 pm Main Library

We are hosting a Business After Hours event on March 26 at 5:15 p.m. Tina thinks we will get better turnout if we cater the food. We can either make it ourselves or get catering. We could approach Hideout or Texas Roadhouse about a contribution. Hideout is catering the next Chamber After Hours event. Tina will contact Texas Roadhouse about providing finger food and sliders, meatballs, etc. Barb mentioned that in the past ice cream socials went well and had good attendance.

c) Scanning of FOL documents

Tina would like a work group to meet and work through the documents, shredding what is not needed, and scanning as appropriate. Tina has several boxes of items and thumb drives. This will be a project after a sale. We will work on this in February. FOL board members can drop off items. Lisa, Grace, Barb, Tina, Jody, and Bonnie volunteered to help with this. Tina will schedule a time based on Lisa's schedule, possibly Tuesday, February 18 at 1 p.m. Amber booked the conference room. Sue (Eberle?) has a Reader's Theater from 2015, as well as articles, bylaws, etc. and will pass them along to Tina.

6. Joining Casa Grande Mainstreet

Mary Jane proposed the FOL join Casa Grande Mainstreet at the annual nonprofit sponsor level for \$50. They have many activities throughout the year and publish an annual magazine, *Mainstreet Focus*, that lists the 100+ members, including the 58 'Outside Mainstreet' members such as

businesses, organizations (Girl Scouts), etc. Mary Jane made a motion to join Casa Grande Mainstreet. Second by Sue Eberle. Approved.

7. Open board seats - vote: Beverly Reidy and Samantha Irely and Michael Ouellet
Tina would like to expand the number of board members, which we can do according to our bylaws. Bonnie moved that we appoint Beverly Reidy, Samantha Irely, and Michael Ouellet to the Board. Sue Reeves seconded. Unanimous.
8. Discussion of minutes and agendas and following Arizona's Open Meeting Law
Because we are intertwined with a government entity, Tina feels we should follow these laws. We need to post agendas 48 hours in advance. We will follow a simplified process. Tina will get agendas and attached reports, etc. out 48 hours in advance.
9. Approval of notes summarizing Summer 2024 email decisions/discussions
Grace moved to approve. Second by Tina. Approved.
10. Vote on \$12,500 funding request for 2025 (OverDrive Advantage and librarian projects)
This is in the current 2025 FOL budget, so it has been *de facto* approved.
11. Staff and volunteer acknowledgments/appreciation.
We have \$550 budgeted for this. We will plan this at a future meeting.
12. New Business
 - a) Book Sale Partnership Proposal from Michael Ouellette
Michael, a longtime FOL board member, sold FOL books online in the past, sharing profits with the Friends, who earned a great deal of revenue from this. Online book sales have become much more challenging with rising platform fees and shipping costs, more competition, tax changes, changing publisher practices, etc. After a hiatus, Michael approached the board about partnering again with online book sales. He proposes selling books worth at least \$25. After shipping and platform fees, he would share his revenue 50/50 with the Friends. For a \$25 book, his revenue would be about \$16, and he would split this with the Friends, who would earn about \$8. He will keep inventory from 5-9 months and then return, sell at bulk discount, or dispose of remaining books. He proposes monthly payments to FOL by the board's preferred method (check, Zelle, etc.). He will work with Bonnie and Mary Jane who will filter gift books for his review. Michael has also been building up a manufacturing business with 3D printing. Michael will donate five 3D manufactured items as raffle items at the March 26 Chamber event and we can sell some of his items at the Book Sale. Bonnie moved we accept Michael's proposal for a book sale partnership. Second by Sue Eberle. Passed. Unanimous.
13. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Notes submitted by Mary Jane Cedar Face, 2/5/2025