

FRIENDS OF THE CASA GRANDE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
November 7, 2024, 8:30 am

Present: Jody Wendt, Barb Brown, Bonnie Warren, Richard Flechtner, Tina Packard, Grace McMillin, Sue Eberle, Sue Reeves (Zoom), Mary Jane Cedar Face, Amber Kent (library), Lisa Morris-Wilkey

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m.

2. Minutes of meeting of October 3, 2024

Move to approve by Sue Eberle. Second by Grace McMillin. Accepted.

3. Old Business

a. Previous email votes for summer – documentation with voting

Mary Jane will put together a document of summer email votes, including discussion and final votes for the following decisions:

- i. Charlie Cart
- ii. Chamber Event
- iii. Hispanic Heritage Month

b. October 9th event and October 29th event

Business After Hours on October 9 at The Property was fun. The attendance seemed down a bit. Tina and Barb met a lot of people, including RV folks who may have ideas for book sale spaces. One suggestion was to reach out to Robson Ranch. We received lots of support. Good food. Tina felt it was a good expenditure. We will connect with the Chamber about getting an entry in their frequent [email newsletters](#) with announcements. The October 29 Halloween story time with trick or treaters went well. Barb, Jody, and Mary Jane enjoyed it. It was very well-attended.

4. Treasurer's Report (Bonnie Warren)

The monthly treasurer's report was distributed and accepted for the record. The AARP reading program asked FOL to donate \$15.99 to make bookmarks. Move to approve the \$15.99 donation by Grace McMillin and second by Barb Brown. Approved.

Bonnie closed the USPS mailbox. We need to update the FOL mailing address with Kroger, ThriftBooks, the Chamber of Commerce, the Corporation Commission, State Farm Insurance, Henry and Horn (new name is Baker Tilly). Bonnie has begun to do this, including contacting ThriftBooks and Mary Dondanville (for memberships). Tina will take care of the Chamber of Commerce, State Farm, and the Corporation Commission. Lisa will help with the remaining contacts. Mary Jane will send Lisa a copy of a Word document with letterhead.

Beginning in January, ThriftBooks is changing their contract and it is less advantageous. Everything we sent so far will be discarded. Bonnie would like a separate meeting of interested people to review the ThriftBooks changes and alternate vendor proposals and

decide what to do. Tina, Bonnie, and Mary Jane will meet next Friday, 11/15, at Vista Library @ 10 a.m.

Bonnie received a letter about a class action lawsuit sent to business owners who may have used Visa or Mastercard between 2004-2019. Everyone agreed to ignore this.

Bonnie talked about the need to hold a book sale ASAP. Sue Eberle said we can use her hangar, with about a quarter of the space available to the Friends. Members liked this idea. We need to have good directional signs and promotion. Bonnie suggested a preview evening for FOL members, schoolteachers, etc. Bonnie will create signages for RV parks. We will begin planning for a January book sale at the hangar.

Amber suggested also creating book bundles that can be sold in the Main branch before Christmas. We can put together book bundles after our next meeting, a holiday potluck, at 6 p.m., on Thursday, December 5. Mary Jane and Grace will get together before this at Vista to select some books for the book bundles. Bonnie said we also have sheet music and records that can be sold.

5. Librarian's Report (Amber Kent)

Halloween Storytime and *Día de los Muertos* Events

Amber thanked Barb, Jody, and Mary Jane who helped distribute candy to 168 children at the Halloween story time. Last Friday, the library held a *Día de los Muertos* celebration at the Main Library featuring a storyteller, dancers, and a mariachi band, with around one hundred participants.

Upcoming Author Event

Lori has arranged for local author SD Schue to visit the Vista Grande Library for two appearances, one for students and one for the public. The first event, for students, is tomorrow, November 12. The public event is scheduled for the evening of January 6th. Bonnie and Mary Jane are helping with the book signings after the events.

Community Assessment Project

Next Friday, staff from Prescott Valley Public Library will be at Casa Grande to conduct training for our grant-funded community assessment project. Both branches of the library will be closed until 1:00 PM on Friday, November 15th, for this training. The project will include outreach to gather data from various community stakeholders, including the Friends.

Annual Report

The library is grateful to the Friends of the Library for funding a wide range of projects during 2024, from summer programs and humanities speakers to digital books and a cooking cart. FOL support makes it possible to meet community needs. Digital titles purchased through the Advantage account were checked out 9,337 times last year. Some titles, especially popular ones, have longer-than-desired hold times, with an average wait of 47 days. This is due to budget constraints; for example, the library purchased nine eBook copies of *The Women* to accommodate over 50 Casa Grande patrons on hold, as well as three additional audiobook

copies. Each digital copy costs \$60, consuming a sizable portion of the digital library budget. Digital circulation now accounts for about 45% of total circulation.

Top Circulating Titles:

- The Women by Kristin Hannah 167
- Simply Lies by David Baldacci 121
- Three-inch Teeth by C.J. Box 93
- A Calamity of Souls by David Baldacci 82
- Dirty Thirty by Janet Evanovich 81

2025 Sponsorship Request

The library's 2025 request includes two items, totaling \$12,500. The board will vote on this request at our next meeting.

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| • Overdrive Advantage | \$10,000 |
| • Librarian Projects (\$500 per Librarian) | \$2,500 |
| • Total | \$12,500 |

6. President's Report (Tina Packard)

- a. Recyclops. We are still recycling unneeded gift books with Tina's Recyclops. Bonnie moved we give Tina another \$90. Second by Sue R. Approved.

7. Newsletter Update (Mary Jane Cedar Face)

We will be able to promote the January book sale in the next issue. Please send any FOL news or photos to Mary Jane.

8. New Business

- a. New meeting time

Beginning in January 2025, we will go back to our old meeting time of 4 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. The January 13, 2025, meeting will also be our annual meeting.

- b. Jody Wendt

Everyone is excited to see Jody back at our meetings!

9. Adjournment 9:39 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting is Thursday, December 5, 2024 @ 6 p.m. It will be a potluck, followed by assembly of book bundles.