FRIENDS OF THE CASA GRANDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2025

Present: Barb Brown, Grace McMillin, Bonnie Warren, Sue Reeves (Zoom), Tina Packard, Mary Jane Cedar Face, Amber Kent (library), Lisa Morris-Wilkey, Bev Reidy, Daniel Gallegos

Absent: Sue Eberle, Jody Wendt, Michael Ouellette, Samantha Irey

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM

1. Introductions and Welcomes
2. Minutes of March 10, 2025 Meeting

Sue Reeves moved that we approve minutes. Second by Bonnie Warren. Approved.

1. Treasurer’s Report (Bonnie Warren)

We need to write a check for the $12,500 budgeted to the library for 2025 for Overdrive Advantage ($10,000) and librarian projects ($2,500, $500 for five librarians). Bonnie will make the check out to City of Casa Grande for $12,500. Revenue from ongoing book sales at Main and Vista came to $425.53. Bonnie is having trouble connecting with BakerTilly.

1. Book Sale Discussion

Bonnie received a new proposal from ThriftBooks, which allows us to sell books directly with immediate payment and free shipping. We still need to check books against the ThriftBooks database to determine if they are wanted. Bonnie will try a sample box.

We received a big donation, and all books went to the dumpster. We have listed acceptable donations in the newsletter. Bonnie wants to make a little flyer that can be passed out about acceptable and unacceptable donations.

Bonnie brought up the donation letter, asking if it should be from the FOL or the library. Amber said that both the library and FOL can be on the letter. Mary Jane had previously talked to Amber about updating the old letter. Amber will send the file to Mary Jane, who will add the FOL logo and a space for staff initials and date. [Follow-up: Amber created a new draft and sent it to Bonnie and Mary Jane for feedback, made edits, and it is great.]

A huge donation of thirty boxes came Saturday from a retired teacher. Thanks to Ethan for his help. Bow Wow Meow has a new manager and will continue to provide books. Mel was diagnosed with a hiatal hernia and no more lifting. Lisa will be able to help. Tina said her husband and Ethan can help.

Bonnie has received several great donations of like-new children’s books and would like to see some go to summer reading. She suggested giving books to kids at Mondo Anaya at the end of the school year. Everyone liked this idea.

We are still not sure when we will be able to use Sue Eberle’s hangar. We may need to wait until fall as hot months are approaching. Bonnie will check with Sue Eberle.

1. Librarian’s Report (Amber Kent)

Living Library: Influential Women in History. The recent Living Library event, which focused on Influential Women in History, was successful with positive community feedback. The next Living Library event will take place on November 12.

On the Paths of the Great Masters: Mesquite Elementary Art Exhibit. The student art exhibition reception is this Thursday, April 17, at 6:00 PM. Mayor Lisa Fitzgibbons will celebrate the students and present certificates of achievement. Friends Board members are invited to attend with the students and their families. The exhibit will remain on display through April 23.

Main Library Carpet Replacement. A temporary closure of the Main Library is tentatively planned for the week of May 19 to accommodate carpet replacement. Details are still being finalized.

Rotary Club Donation for Reading Pillows. The Rotary Club is donating $250 to support the Reading Pillow Project for Storytime at the Main Library. With help from Bonnie and a local quilting group, the library will distribute pillows, along with books, during the final spring Storytime event on April 29. This event will be a themed tea party, providing a festive backdrop for photos and community engagement.

New School/Young Adult Librarian. Tina Packard has been selected as the new School/Young Adult Librarian at Vista Grande Library, starting July 1. Tina will be joining the team following Lori’s retirement at the end of June.

Catch the Bookmobile! *Día de Los Niño’s* is scheduled for April 26 from 11:00 AM-2:00 PM. All are welcome to draw with sidewalk chalk around the bus!

1. President’s Report (Tina Packard)
   1. March 26th Chamber Event – Review

The event went well. The dairy-free option was appreciated. We will discuss the benefits of the $250 Chamber renewal. Amber mentioned the city is a member and she can forward any FOL announcements for inclusion in the Chamber newsletter.

* 1. Kudos - Mary Jane and Bonnie

Thanks to Mary Jane for the newsletter and to Grace for helping to proof it. Many thanks to Bonnie for her work on organizing donations and sorting them.

* 1. Advocacy letter/other advocacy options for library supporters

There was a motion by Lisa and a second by Grace for Tina to draft letters to state and federal representatives about IMLS cuts that impact libraries and about cuts to public education.

* 1. Discussion about Library Staff who have FOL Board Positions

Amber is okay with Tina continuing to work with the FOL board as a staff member. It was agreed that Tina should give it a try and see if it works out. We may move board meetings to Vista.

1. By-laws Review

It has been a while since FOL Bylaws were updated. Tina took a first stab at reviewing the existing FOL bylaws and distributed print copies with suggested edits to better match wording with current practice. We spent time going through the document. Everyone is encouraged to take a closer look and suggest changes. Mary Jane will work on the FOL statement of purpose. Tina will create an editable Google Doc copy of the old document and save it to the shared FOL Google Drive. We will review updates at our May meeting and vote to approve when the updating is complete.

1. Staff and volunteer acknowledgments/appreciation follow-up
   1. Staff acknowledgements

We are ready to distribute staff acknowledgements. Barb picked up gift cards. Tina got cookies from the

Cookie Jar. Each staff person will receive a bag with the gift cards and cookies. We signed a thank you letter that will be copied to go with each bag. Amber and Tina will make sure they are distributed to staff.

* 1. Volunteer acknowledgements

Amber will get the number of volunteers that come into the library. We will work on cards later for volunteers.

* 1. Donor Plaque

Tina has the existing plaque, but it needs more space for names. We need to find a plaque that matches. Samantha and Sue Eberle will work on the list of donors to be recognized on the plaque. Some donors mentioned include Claire Davis, the donor who gave $1000 for a tree, and donors who contributed to the bookmobile wrap. Amber suggested considering another visible method of donor acknowledgement that can be easily added to. One idea is new end caps for bookshelves.

1. New Business
   1. FOL Debit Card

Our current debit card still has Jody Wendt’s name. Bonnie and another officer will need to go to the bank to get the card updated.

1. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 12, 2025, at 4 PM.

Revised Minutes submitted by Mary Jane Cedar Face, 5/8/25.