

FRIENDS OF THE L.D. FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
July 15, 2024 @ 9am in Library Hall

I—Call to Order: President Vicki Wickliffe called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. Present were Barb Becker, Carol Burrows, Kathleen O’Hearn, Karie Pollard, Beth Naughton, and Gerard Saylor. Absent were Beckie Kane, Patty Hoggatt and Anne Werner. Robin Untz (Library Board), Wendy Brockert (Library Board), and Valerie Krejcie (Friends of the Library) joined as guests.

A. Minutes of Board Meeting June 17, 2024: Motion to approve minutes by Karie, seconded by Kathleen, motion passed.

B. Treasurer’s Report 6/17/2024-7/15/2024

Karie reported the following:

Checking account balance:	\$3619.36
Library used book sales:	+ 43.50
Memberships/donations:	+205.00
Summer reading award books:	-1500.00
Ending Balance:	\$2367.86

Karie and Vicki renewed our CDs at The Bank of Lake Mills. One CD is at 4.8% for 9 months. Three other CDs are renewed at 4.7% for 14 months.

C. Library Director’s Report: Gerard submitted a grant request to the state for the Flexible Facilities Program for the library expansion. Grant recipients will be announced in October. The city council committed to \$1.7 million if we get the grant.

Jodi Sweeney will start in August with planning and donor confirmations and the capital campaign will begin 2-3 months later. The Library Board is planning to approach the Greater Watertown Area Health Foundation. They are hoping to kick off the fund raising campaign with an announcement that there is already one large donor.

Summer Reading participation continues to be extremely strong.

There was discussion about the popular Hoopla app that costs much more than Libby. Some books on Hoopla are as much as \$15.00 to rent for one patron. The library spends on average \$450-\$500 per month on Hoopla even with the two books per month limit. Bridges members are evaluating various e-book rental services and whether they will continue with Hoopla and Libby or some other resource. Our library’s New Book budget this year is \$32,000.

The FOL website is not yet launched. We requested that Gerard ask Autumn to make it live. Vicki would like to create a FOL gmail address and add that to the website so people are able to contact us directly and not have to go through the library.

II—Old Business

A. Feather Flag – Wallflower Market does not sell feather flags. We discussed purchasing an 8-foot flag on Amazon for about \$130 that includes hardware to display it. Suggestions were for a yellow background with black lettering so as to be very visible, Fargo the Sloth sitting on top of a stack of books, and lettering for Friends of the Library down the length of the flag. We will ask Autumn to do several renderings of a design and e-mail them to the board in the next few weeks. After review of the designs, we will vote via e-mail and order the flag so we have

it for several fall events. Beth motioned to purchase the flag after members vote on the design, Barb seconded, motion passed.

- B. Payment for Services for Updating FOL Website—Kathleen motioned to pay Autumn an additional \$200.00 for the design of the FOL website, Barb seconded. Motion passed.
- C. Author visit for Lake Mills Middle School – Carol responded to Ethan Floerke via email that local author Greg Renz would be an excellent and affordable option for the author visit. Ethan responded that he was thinking of an author who writes specifically for the middle school audience. He is even considering a virtual visit with a well-known author. It was mentioned that maybe a panel of authors would be a good idea and that local student-author Kenzie Syvrud could be among the presenters. Ethan had asked previously how much we are willing to contribute towards the author visit. We declined to give Ethan an amount until we have a better understanding of the objectives to be achieved.

Robin suggested the website for the Wisconsin Historical Society Speakers Bureau for ideas. Beth mentioned the panel of authors that had recently appeared at Louis Station Winery. Also, other libraries in the Bridges System could be contacted for names of local authors.

- D. Welcome Packet for New Library Card Holders – Gerard spoke with staff and they are willing to hand out the packets as long as we make the packets. Karie will assemble a sample packet. It was also discussed as to whether to have gift cards or something free in the packet. Karie said at times she sets up 4 or more cards per day, so purchasing something like gift cards would likely be cost prohibitive. Robin suggested we include a coupon good for 2 free books from the library sale books for new FOL memberships.
- E. FOL Membership Update – Barb sent reminders to some of the expired members and several renewed. There were also two new members this month.

III—New Business

- A. Author Visit for L.D. Fargo Library – Vicki and Beth attended an author presentation at Daydream Believer Books in June. The author was Deborah Hufford, author of the recently published and critically acclaimed book *Blood to Rubies*. Vicki asked Deborah if she would be open to coming to present at the library and Deborah indicated she would. Beth motioned for us to invite Deborah to come to L.D. Fargo library, Carol seconded. The motion passed.

IV—Announcements and Miscellaneous

Beth reached out to several attorneys over the past month regarding how to begin the 501(c)(3) but no one called back. Robin and Carol both have some experience and feel we can do it on our own. Robin suggested we print the requirements off the IRS web site and each board member take a part to work on. There is a 1023-EZ form for organizations with income of less than \$50,000.

Vicki asked Denise Grossman again if she would be willing to take over as President of the FOL. Denise responded that she is unable to do so at this time.

Robin announced that Sunday, July 21st is Aztalan Day from noon to 4:00. Jordan Ciesielczyk will give a special presentation at 1:00 PM about the Evolution of the Myth about the Rock Lake Pyramids.

V—Next Meeting Date: August 19, 2024 @ 9 AM

VI—Adjournment 10:18 AM

Minutes prepared by Beth Naughton, Secretary – updated 10/06/2025