

**FRIENDS OF THE L.D. FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2026 @ 9AM IN LIBRARY HALL**

I-Call to Order: President Vicki Wickliffe called the meeting to order at 9am. Present were Barb Becker, Carol Burrows, Barb Cramer, Patty Hoggatt, Beckie Kane, Kathleen O'Hearn, Anne Werner and Gerard Saylor. Also present was Karie Pollard. Beth Naughton was absent.

A. Approval of January 19, 2026 board meeting minutes: Regarding B.2., Kathleen stated that it was just her suggestion that FOL board members purchase Spanish-speaking books for next year's Head Start Book Party. Beckie made a motion to approve the revised minutes, seconded by Kathleen. Motion passed.

B. Treasurer's report: Barb C. presented a written report to board members. We received another corporate sponsorship for \$100. The checking account has an ending balance of \$8,275.25. Vicki added that our 12/31/25 balance in LMACF is \$66,082. The board previously voted to give a minimum of \$40,000 for the library expansion.

C. Library Director's report: Gerard reported that the expansion committee had a work session with the architects. The new price of the expansion is \$5,553,000 of which a large portion is the geothermal heating/cooling (or more specifically, \$5,027,000 after rebate for geothermal). There are 2 options for the library's temporary location during construction: the James J Chocolate building and the community room at City Hall. Rent at James J would be upwards of \$100,000. He attended Library Legislative Day in Madison last week. He reported that microfilm scanning for the Lake Mills Leader for years 1883-1917 is complete and online.

II. Old Business

A. Library Online Store: Discussion was had regarding a logo which could be like the one on the FOL feather flag. We would opt to have everything made with the Madison company because it is free to non-profits. It was suggested a tote bag embroidered with the library as depicted in the painting in the meeting room would make a nice raffle gift. Barb C. will contact someone she knows who could possibly do this. We will continue this discussion when Beth returns.

B. Review of FOL Bylaws: Tabled until next month.

C. FOL Audit: Vicki reported that no one from the membership volunteered to do an audit. Discussion followed. It was decided that we would commence with an audit beginning January 2024. The board also decided to cash in the CD from the LM Market Round-Up and give it to the library for the expansion fund along with the \$500 donation we previously received which was designated for the expansion. Motion made by Beckie, seconded by Barb B. Motion passed. Vicki will check with other FOL's in the Bridges system for a recommendation of an auditor.

Karie mentioned that memberships should possibly all be for the calendar year beginning January 1 so that we could have an operational budget.

D. Arbor Day Activity: Beckie reported that she and Becca had decided against purchasing saplings specifically for Arbor Day due to the quantity and cost. They are looking into a sapling

program in April or after to perhaps be held at Wallace Park.

E. Responses from Membership to the News Flash: Vicki reported that she received one comment on our “Shining Star” award and no replies to changing board meeting times or suggestions for an activity/selling pies on Pi Day.

III. New Business

A. Request for Purchase of More Wonderbooks and Tonie Characters: Vicki read a request from Becca for funds to purchase more of the very popular Wonderbooks and Tonies. Carol made a motion to provide \$500 towards the purchase of Wonderbooks and \$80 for Tonies for a total of \$580. Seconded by Patty. Motion passed.

B. Websites for Collecting Memberships and Donations: Anne read an AI overview of “Givebutter” which is a free fundraising platform for non-profits. Discussion was had with regard to using payment platforms like Venmo, Zell and Paypal. Discussion to be continued at next meeting.

C. Pi Day March 14: Based on lack of volunteer responses {see II.E), we will not have an activity on this day.

IV. Announcements and Miscellaneous

A. The Teen Theater Performance, sponsored by the FOL, is on Tuesday, February 24, at 6pm.

B. Vicki received notice from Raina that Legendary will hold a press conference in April which will include an announcement about our Shining Star award.

V. Next meeting date: March 16 at 9am

VI. Adjournment at 10:35am

Minutes prepared by Anne Werner

Minutes are subject to correction/approval at the March 2026 meeting.