

Friends Of Oskaloosa Library FOOLs Minutes
Unapproved – to be reviewed and approved at next meeting

Date: April 2, 2025

Location: Book Fools bookstore, 5:15 pm

Meeting Called to Order 5:15 pm

Officers and Members Present

President: Margaret Fast, Secretary: Carol Snyder,

Treasurers: Jeannette Hierstein, Melinda Dick-Lang; Newspaper Liaison: Jen Trowbridge;

Members: Jo Cross, Cheryl Sylvester

Board of Trustees: Heath Flax

Previous Meeting Notes (January 29, 2025)

Margaret reviewed, and the November Meeting Notes were approved by consensus.

Reminder of report for state due in June with \$80 fee.

Plant Sale

April 11-12, Friday 9-5, Saturday 9-12

Set up tables on Thursday after yoga. Cheryl will bring tablecloths.

Carol will distribute a flyer and notify newspaper.

Sale time and volunteers determined. Garden décor will be included!

Treasurer's Report

Melinda shared the bank balance.

Margaret's yoga group generously gave donations.

Treats for Sweets was successful even with the date change.

Book store continues to bring in donations.

Treasurer's report was accepted by consensus.

Discussion of Plant Sale funds and will continue the traditional use of supporting the Summer Reading needs.

Wish Lists

Library - The wish list given to FOOLs was focused entirely on summer reading. FOOLs would like to see a somewhat long-term list of needs that FOOLs could assist with.

FOOLs - Jeannette noted that the bookstore is self-sustaining and additional funds are not needed at this time.

Summer Reading

Sammy's Wish List for summer reading activities was shared.

FOOLs discussion of amount to give, and possibility of encouraging community to donate items. Donating fosters a feeling of being part of the program.

Need to determine what donations would be needed vs. purchased.

Comparison shopping, through local vendors should be encouraged.

Jo motioned that FOOLs give \$1000, Cheryl seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion was amended to encourage the library to solicit donations from the community for specific items from a list prepared by the library. Amendment was accepted by the motioner

and the amended motion was approved unanimously. FOOLs will need, as last year, an ending report from the library of how the funds were specifically utilized.

Library Available Funding and Institute of Museum and Library Science (IMLS) Funding Cuts
2.1 million of funding is in jeopardy.

Kansas is 2nd in the country for library visits. Kansans care about libraries.

Libraries need to tell their own story. FOOLs can educate community, and especially patrons to contact US representatives to relate personal stories of how they appreciate their library.

Discussion of best way to contact representatives, write letters, calling, 5 Calls app. Services that could be lost - Interlibrary loan, State Library databases, Hoopla, etc.

Cheryl will write a letter to the Independent and Vindicator newspapers and develop a handout showing the State Library databases and services. FOOLs will continue to advocate for the library and encourage people to learn more about the library possibilities through library cards.

Board of Trustees and/or Director's report

Heath stated that \$24,000 of Osk. library budget likely to be cut due to IMLS defunding.

Library Silent Auction raised \$1258.

Community Engagement

Continue advocating for the library and services, communicating with US representatives.

Discussion of having Friends table at Old Settlers on June 21st. Vendor table space is free for non-profits if not soliciting funds or selling.

Decided in front of the library Saturday morning would be advantageous. Volunteers Carol, Melinda, and Margaret will work the table with books, Friends sign-up, and logo bags.

Cheryl motioned we have a table in front of the Library on Saturday with FOOLs volunteers, Jeannette seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Request

It was mentioned that some memorial items were no longer displayed at the library.

FOOLs will request that they be restored to the meeting room wall. As a library in the County Seat, history of the library's growth should be maintained. Margaret will write a letter to the Board of Trustees making the request.

Invitation to FOOLs and Board to sign up for the Friends of Kansas Libraries monthly Zoom.

The April meeting, along with past meetings can be accessed here: <https://fokl.net/firstfriday/>

Gratitude

Thank you to unknown person(s) who cleaned up the patio garden.

Thank you to Jeannette for removing the unusable Photo Booth on the library patio.

Thank you to Margaret and her library yoga class for support of FOOLs.

Carol motioned to adjourn the meeting and Jeannette seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:15.