

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

Date: August 9, 2025

Location: Book Fool Bookstore, 12:00 pm

Meeting Called to Order: 12:03pm

Officers and Members Present

President: Margaret Fast, Secretary: Carol Snyder, Treasurers: Jeannette Hierstein, Melinda Dick-Lang; Newspaper Liaison: Jen Trowbridge; Members: Lynelle Killinger, Carol Marshall  
Board of Trustees: Doug Bond, Stephanie Spencer, Heath Flax

**Previous Meeting Notes (May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025)**

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

**FOOLs President Opening Remarks**

Margaret gave some history of her service to the library, which began under a previous director, along with current communication issues that have arisen with use and appearance of the community room. Answers to FOOLs' email questions regarding historical items for a Memorial Wall, and fundraising activities have been disregarded. She described how communication only works if it is between all involved. Mediation has been suggested.

Margaret filed the organization's non-profit report for the state, and we are in good standing for the next two years.

Feather Flags, reading "Books" and "Open" were purchased for the bookstore, as suggested at the May 2024 meeting. Placed during open hours, the bookstore has reported positive results.

The book sale table during Old Settlers did not generate many funds, but was colorful. We sent in a "Color Our World" picture to FOKL for possible placement in their newsletter mentioning Friends activities during the summer.

Margaret noted we are preparing documentation of the last four years of monetary support of the library. Noting that FOOLs has consistently, among other things, supported Summer Reading.

**OPL Board of Trustees Opening Remarks**

Heath gave a prepared statement regarding the relationship of The Board and FOOLs. The Board currently considers FOOLs antagonistic and overstepping their roles. He mentioned three possible resolutions: **Individual FOOLs members who are not happy should step back**, a new Friends group be formed, or the Board can dissolve the group (information Heath reports is from NEKLS). Heath stressed that the Board hires the Director, and the group's role or responsibility is not to question their or the Director's decisions. He **read the FOOLs mission which includes support of the library.**

The issue **of the relationship is unresolved**. FOOLs will gather information from FOKL and NEKLS.

*Note: FOOLs Purpose and Mission, and the Board Strategic Plan are below, which Carol S. read during the meeting. \**

### **Memorial Wall**

The location of a Jim Ware plaque requested of the Board in April 2025, included FOOLs offering to create a memorial wall to consolidate all the plaques and pictures currently in the community room. According to Board meeting notes, and current members in the meeting, it would not be possible due to future library's remodeling and re-organization. We question the Board as to why this issue is continuing when the memorial items are easy to move. Much discussion from FOOLs and Board. FOOLs maintains that the history of the library needs to be honored. This issue is unresolved. Margaret will attend the next board meeting

### **Funding for Security System**

Discussion of the direction of FOOLs funds, and lack of communication of an incorrect bid. FOOLs were never notified (officially, or informally when asked) that they did not, in fact, completely purchase a security system. The printed bid, provided by Melinda, was discussed, and Heath offered to write a check to return the \$1088. He explained the library's bank accounts, which was appreciated by FOOLs. Money is in the bank until October fundraising to complete the purchase.

### **Summer Reading**

To be addressed later, when completed. Brief mention of additional lack of communication, stating again that FOOLs has always provided funds for Summer Reading.

### **Author Talks with Jefferson County Historical Society**

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, JCHS will have an Author Presentation with five local authors. The community room at the library has been reserved. Mary Luce from JCHS and Melinda will continue to coordinate these well-attended events.

### **Book Giveaways**

Melinda heads up a book giveaway at the local food giveaways. She packs a selection of books from the bookstores, and publicizes they are from the Friends of the Oskaloosa Library. The September Harvesters event is at the Methodist Church. We are considering a book giveaway table at the little free library by the grocery to be held at a later date.

### **Other Business**

FOOLs once again noted to the Board that we wish to coordinate with library events such as Holiday Open House and Bookstore Holiday Sale and continue to offer help in getting both locations looking their best.

Regarding communication, several individuals recounted negative personal issues at the library during the last year and a half. The attending Trustees had no response but offered mediation, or individuals should join the Board, as several seats remain open. Carol S. was the only attendee residing in the township. She declined the Board suggestion to join but volunteered to

post the Board's minutes to the library website, in the interest of community transparency and best practices. Trustees did not respond to offer. These issues are unresolved. Previously FOOLs had been told to bring issues to the Board.

## **Next Meeting**

To be held in October with planning for Artist Sale at the bookstore.  
FOOLs' financial contributions to the library and community will be reviewed in depth.  
All individuals of all ages are invited to FOOLs meetings, or to ask questions of any FOOLs member, especially if another group is being formed through the library.

Jeannette motioned to adjourn the meeting and Melinda seconded.  
Meeting adjourned at 1:37pm.

## **Gratitude**

Thank you to book fans for turning Book Fool bookstore into a destination!!

Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> – International Literacy Day - "Promoting literacy in the digital era."

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## **\*Review of FOOLs Mission and Purpose**

### **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

Section 1. The purpose of FOOLs, Inc. shall be to maintain a nonprofit organization of interested persons to advance and encourage appreciation, understanding, enjoyment, and public use of the educational and cultural facilities at the library, and to cooperate, when appropriate, with other groups to improve the cultural activities of the community, conduct fundraising, and support the library's mission and plans.

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### ***Oskaloosa Public Library Strategic Plan 2023-2027***

*Libraries are an essential public good which serves a fundamental purpose in democratic societies. In service of that purpose, we abide by the following mission, vision, and core values:*

***Our Mission:*** *The Oskaloosa Public Library enriches the quality of life for our citizens by providing free access to information, technology, and educational experiences.*

***Our Vision:*** *Partnering with the community to encourage lifelong learning*

***Our Values:*** *Promoting Education and Lifelong Learning*

*Supporting Free and Equal Access to Information*

*Making a Diversity of Resources and Services Available to All*

*Constantly Striving for Excellence in Services*

*Upholding the Principles of Intellectual Freedom*

*Protecting User Privacy and Confidentiality*

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