

Friends of the Joliet Public Library
Meeting Minutes
Saturday, November 15, 2025
Ottawa Street Branch
150 N Ottawa St, Joliet

1. Convene and Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President John Davis
2. Roll Call (sign in) – Members Present: John Davis, Ron Likovic, Val Devine, Laurence Dent, Marilyn Bohner, Ethel Garrett, Katie Fountaine, Joe Furlan, Paul Rak, Linda Aguilar
3. Agenda Additions: None
4. Treasurer’s Report – Ron Likovic: See handouts *BMO End of Oct. 2025* and *Profit-Sharing Statement* from Thriftbooks.
Ending balance from September 2025 = \$42,537.28
Ending balance from October 2025 = \$43,925.01
Comments:
 - The fee for using Wild Apricot software for our database has increased. Paul will address that later in the meeting.
Motion to approve report – Linda
Second – Joe
Motion approved
5. Read and Approve Minutes – Linda Aguilar: See handout *Meeting Minutes*
Comments:
 - It was noted that Vice President Laurence Dent presided over the September meeting.
Motion to approve minutes – Laurence
Second – Ethel
Motion approved
6. Library News (Liaison) – Val Devine:
 - BRB Update – the circulation desk has been relocated, carpet installed, and the staff are occupying the Phase 1 side. BRB will be closed to the public December 15th through the remainder of the year to complete renovations that cannot be done with people in the building (pending Board approval).
 - The T-shirt printer needs to be replaced. We can expect a funding request in the near future to cover 50% of the cost (estimated to be between \$3,500 to \$7,500).

- The Library will participate in the Light Up the Holidays parade in downtown Joliet. Please let Val know if you would like to participate.
- Per a discussion at the last meeting about having a bin at BRB for collecting clothing donations (passive fundraiser – the company pays us to have the bin at our location), we will need to put a cement pad at the end of the parking lot. Katie and Val are exploring options for getting this done.
- Star Wars Day will be back to its original location – downtown at the Renaissance Center, Historical Museum, Library, and possibly the City Center Square (weather permitting).
- Culver's Fundraiser – we should be receiving a check soon. Val will let us know when it arrives and the total.
- Coming in February and March 2026, there will be an Exhibit of Lego Characters that correspond to each letter of the alphabet. The exhibit will be part of Black History Month events as the characters represent famous people in Black History.

7. Committee Reports:

- a. Membership: The price for Wild Apricot keeps going up. It was about \$40/mo. when we started using it, and it was the right choice to meet our needs at the time, however, it is now \$78/mo. We do not use all the features it offers, and we need to find a simpler system that costs less. Paul is exploring options. John asked a committee to work on this – to include Paul, Dave, Soren, and Val, and report back at the February meeting. We would also like to set up a system where people can pay to renew their membership or donate online via Zelle or Venmo.
- b. Publicity: The big poster that was downstairs (in the frame by our booksale) was used at Culver's to attract attention to the fundraiser. Once we approve next year's meeting and sale dates, Val will ask Mallory to create a new poster for the frame.

8. Old Business:

- a. Thrift – already covered in Treasurer's report.
- b. Culver's Fundraiser – already covered in Val's report.

9. New Business

- a. Book sale pricing – Is there anything we want to change? We like the simpler pricing structure – at the ongoing sales, books/media are \$1.00 or \$.50 each. We offer some higher priced books, video games, and puzzles at the big semi-annual sales. The bag sale price is now \$4.00/bag. We may be receiving a quantity of vintage books as a donation. We will determine prices for them as needed or donate them elsewhere if we cannot sell them.
- b. Meeting and sale dates – See proposed dates in the Announcements below.
 - Proposed changing the April meeting from the 4th to the 11th.

- For the May sale, we reserved rooms at both locations, but most likely it will be at OSB.

Motion to approve the meeting and sale dates – Katie

Second – Laurence

Motion approved

- We did not schedule a one-day pop-up sale for 2026 yet. In previous years we made the following at our one-day sales:

June 2023 at OSB = \$473

June 2024 at BRB = \$336

Feb 2025 at BRB = \$623

10. Fundraising Requests – Val Devine: See handout

- Laura Yanchick requested \$2000 to buy new toys, games, craft supplies, etc. for the children’s department at BRB. After the remodel there will be separate areas for different age groups (babies, preschool, school age, teens).

Motion to approve – Linda

Second – Ron

Motion approved

- Laura Yanchick requested \$2,500 to jointly sponsor a permanent storywalk with the Plainfield Park District to be installed at Caton Ridge Park. The funds would be used to purchase the stands that would be installed around the walking path. The library would maintain the storywalk with new books quarterly. There may be an option to split the \$2,500 cost with Youth Services (\$1250 each). After some discussion about the location and how many Joliet Public Library patrons would use it, it was suggested we table this request until our next meeting when we can discuss it further.

Motion to table – Linda

Second – Ron

Motion tabled

11. Election of Officers for 2026 – Nominations are as follows:

President – John Davis, Laurence Dent

Vice President – Laurence Dent

Secretary – Katie Fountaine

Treasurer – Ron Likovic

After ballots were counted, John will remain President in 2026; Laurence will remain Vice President; Katie will serve as Secretary; Ron will remain as Treasurer

12. Announcement(s)

- Upcoming Meeting Dates for 2026 – February 7 & April 11, 10:00 a.m. at OSB; October 23, 10:00 a.m. at BRB.
- Sales – May 1-3 at OSB and October 23-25 at BRB.

13. Adjourn 11:14 am
Motion to adjourn – Marilyn
Second – Ethel
Motion approved

Mission Statement – The purpose of this organization shall be:

- To maintain an association of persons interested in the Joliet Public Library
- To focus public attention on library services and needs
- To stimulate use of library services and resources
- To encourage gifts and bequests
- To support and cooperate with the library in developing services and resources for the community