

Friends of the Joliet Public Library
Meeting Minutes
Saturday, April 5, 2025
Ottawa Street Branch
150 N Ottawa Street, Joliet

1. Convene and Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Roll Call – Members present: John Davis, Dave Hlavac, Ron Likovic, Joe Furlan, Paul Rak, Val Devine, Katie Fountaine, Soren Haurberg, Linda Aguilar, Laurence Dent, Marilyn Boehner, Ethel Garrett, Michele Janicek

3. Agenda Additions: None

4. Treasurer's Report – Ron Likovic: See Treasurer's Report handout for further details.

Ending Balance as of January 31, 2025	\$46,438.04
Feb. Credits	\$ 1,890.62
March Credits	<u>\$ 760.78</u>
Total	\$49,089.44
Feb. Debits	\$ - 200.00
March Debits	<u>\$-10,591.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 38,298.44

Additional Comments

- Tax forms for nonprofit/charitable organizations are due.
- Thanks to Val for calling Thrift and getting our check – shipping was already paid so we received more profit.
- Dave mentioned that the Friends have a license for Quick Books if we want to use that for our financial record keeping.
Motion to approve report – Dave
Second – Ethel
Motion approved

5. Read and Approve February 8 Meeting Minutes:

Corrections noted – *Laurence* made the motion to approve the treasurer's report and *Katie* made the motion to approve the November minutes.

- Motion to approve minutes as corrected – Katie
- Second – Joe
- Motion approved

6. Library News (Liaison) – Val Devine:

- Star Wars Day will be at the Slammers stadium rather than downtown due to ongoing street construction. She expressed thanks to the Friends for being an event sponsor and to those who are volunteering to help that day.
- Posters are up at both branches for our May sale. Also, notices are being placed in the books on hold.
- We have two options for donating the excess inventory left over after the sale: Will County Go Green and the book recycling event being held at Pilcher Park.

- Thrift report – see the handout with notes from Val’s conversation with our contact at Thrift. If we start using the large gators to collect the books we send to Thrift, we will need space to put the pallet. All the details will have to be determined after the BRB remodel is complete.
- The Library Administration is meeting later this month to discuss the remodel. We may know more about our future Friends space after that.
- Val attended a Zoom meeting for Friends of the Library groups on “Shaping the Future for your Friends.” Please see Val if you would like information about the meeting and what ideas were discussed.
- Summer “Fests” downtown such as Kidzfest: We have not had a sale at this event in recent years because we did not make much money and ended up giving most of the books away. If we wish to participate, we could give vouchers for a free book from our ongoing sale. These vouchers can be given out at the Library’s table.

7. Committee Reports:

- Membership – We currently have 88 members.
Wild Apricot - There are some issues with the accounting system, and we need to update the password as they are starting to require 2 factor authentication. The monthly price has increased, and they will start charging us tax on the service unless we submit a non-profit form. A subcommittee of Paul, Dave, and Soren will investigate alternative software programs and report back to the group.
- Publicity – As our liaison, Val gets posters made and put up. She also organizes the lawn signs for the sale. Marilyn suggested advertising on the Joliet Patch website. All of us can “like” and “share” the Library’s Facebook posts about the upcoming book sales – which will increase our publicity.

8. Old Business

- Donations – The question was raised whether we want to limit donations from the public during the remodel as we are short on storage space. Often people don’t read the website info about what we accept, and many don’t ask before they drop off books, etc. We scan donated books to see if they have value for Thrift. Once the remodel is complete, we could put a free table in the community room at BRB to give away things we cannot sell. Also, we can have a box or bin for recycling at both locations and let the maintenance staff know to empty it when full. If we get overwhelmed with donations and deleted books, Val will ask Joe if we can use the area right outside our room in the basement at OSB to store boxes of books.
- Thrift analysis – already discussed

9. New Business

- Possible Fundraisers – Paul distributed a list of ideas for fundraising at the last meeting, and ideas were briefly discussed then. We would need volunteers to coordinate future fundraisers. We can plan to do a restaurant fundraiser the week after our fall sale so we can post and give out promotional fliers at the sale. If we need to increase our revenue to assist with more projects (such as the BRB remodel), we can explore other kinds of fundraisers beyond our book sales and restaurant fundraisers.
- Birthday Celebration – We tried to have a 50th Anniversary celebration in 2018. We ended up serving cake and playing music from 1968 at our regular book sale. We also offered a special price (\$50) for lifetime memberships. The next likely opportunity to celebrate the founding of the Friends of the JPL will be in 2028 for the 60th Anniversary.

- Book sale volunteer sign-up sheet – was passed around for people to indicate when they can help. Set up will be on Thursday and Friday. We can request some high school students to help on Friday after 3 p.m.
- Future meetings & sales – set at the November meeting

10. Funding Requests – Val – none

11. Announcement(s)

- Star Wars Day – June 7
- Meetings – Sept. 13 & Nov. 15 – both at OSB
- Sales at OSB – May 2 - 4 & Oct. 24 – 26

12. Adjourn – meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

Motion to adjourn – Marilyn

Second – Ethel

Motion approved

Friends of the Joliet Public Library 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.