

Friends of the Joliet Public Library
Meeting Minutes
Saturday, February 7, 2026
Ottawa Street Branch
150 N Ottawa St, Joliet

1. Convene and Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Vice President Laurence Dent
2. Roll Call (sign in): Members Present: Ron Likovic, Val Devine, Laurence Dent, Michele Janicek, Paul Rak, Linda Aguilar, and new member, Roy Rozman, was welcomed to the group.
3. Agenda Additions: Discussion of Collection boxes for BRB
4. Treasurer's Report: Ron Likovic, See handouts *Treasurer Report Summaries: Nov/Dec 2025 & Jan 2026* and *Profit-Sharing Statement* from Thriftbooks (4 pages).

Beginning balance, 2025 = \$46,007.40

Ending balance, 2025 = \$49,278.04

Balance as of January 31, 2026 = \$49,554.04

2025 statistics: Book sales (combined OSB & BRB) = \$3,465.70

Thrift Books = \$3,260.59

Additional notes/comments:

- We received some money from selling video games that were left over from the sale to Disc Replay.
- John took care of filing the IRS forms required to continue our status as a 501C3 non-profit organization.

Motion to approve treasurer's report – Val

Second – Michele

Motion approved

5. Read and Approve Minutes: Linda Aguilar: See handout *Meeting Minutes*

Additional notes/comments:

Motion to approve minutes – Paul

Second – Val

Motion approved

6. Library News (Liaison) – Val Devine:
 - Star Wars Day will be held on June 6th from 11am – 3pm downtown Joliet. They are using the new space in the renovated square for food vendors. In case of rain, they will move to indoor spaces nearby.
 - The May and October book sales will be held at BRB this year.
 - The BRB renovation is expected to be completed in 5-6 weeks. An Open House to celebrate will be held on Friday, April 24th with a reception from 3 – 4 pm for Staff, Friends of the Library, etc., after which the event is open to the public.
 - The Back-to-School Fair hosted by State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel and Representative Natalie Manley will be held on July 25th from 10am – 1pm. They would like a donation of books to give away. We have a few boxes of books already set aside and can box up more for them after the May sale.
 - An Exhibit featuring the artwork of Joliet native Shane-Jahi Jackson to celebrate Black History Month is at OSB this month and through March. On the first floor is an ABC themed display where Legos are used to build models of famous people from Black History (one for each letter of the alphabet). The Friends got a \$5000 grant from Nicor to fund this exhibit.
 - There will be an Art Wall installed at BRB similar to the one on the second floor at OSB where local children's art is displayed in frames. Val is looking for a sponsor for BRB. (Old National Bank sponsors the wall at OSB.)
 - The Friends of the Joliet Public Library are featured in an article in RAILS (statewide publication for IL libraries) applauding our donation of books to the school in Kenya. Val will get in touch with her local contact for the school to see if he can come on Sunday, May 3rd after the bag sale to pick up the extra books that are left and send them to the school.

7. Committee Reports:
 - Membership: We currently have 68 active members: 5 families, 23 individuals, 25 lifetime, and 15 seniors. We have quite a few lapsed members, most of which are likely to renew at the next sale. The subcommittee looking into other options for membership software has not met yet; they will give a report at the next meeting. Paul will work with Dave to have the Square tested and ready for use at the next sale.
 - Publicity: Noted the positive press release about our group donating books to the school in Kenya. Val is working with Mallory on posters and other advertisements for the May sale. Please like or share these messages on social media when you see them.

8. Old Business:
 - Tabled funding request for Plainfield Storywalk – Val looked into this and reported that the park is beyond Caton Farm Rd. which is outside of our library district. She also noted that a storywalk will be installed at the new downtown plaza across the street from OSB. Only 6 stands/stations will be installed, featuring

shorter books. A funding request for this proposed storywalk will be submitted later. Discussion was that we would prefer to fund the one in our area.

Motion to decline to fund request Plainfield Park storywalk – Val

Second – Paul

Motion Approved

9. New Business:

- Popup Sale? – None are scheduled for this summer. Val suggested waiting to see what the BRB remodel looks like and also to determine whether or not we have excess inventory we need to clear out after we have everything set up for the ongoing sale at BRB. The group agreed not to schedule a popup sale at this time.
- 2026 book sales – Laurence suggested we have a mystery book theme at the May sale to increase interest and sales. Mystery books would be marked in some way, and when someone buys one, they would receive a prize. Val noted that we have 54 coupons given to us by Culver's that could be used as prizes. We could award prizes to those buying over a certain number of books or hold a raffle every 15 minutes. The group decided to continue this discussion via email or at the next meeting.
- Collection Boxes for BRB – a handout showing options for freestanding collection boxes was distributed. The Library Administration is asking us to use a collection box instead of having the Circulation Desk clerks collect the payments from our ongoing sales. It might be nice to have a box that would also enable people to pay for books, donate to the Friends, and/or renew memberships with a credit card. Cost and practicality of accepting online payments must be considered.

10. Fundraising Requests – Val Devine: See handout:

- Val requested \$5000 to be an Event Sponsor for Star Wars Day on June 6th. This is a large, annual event that draws thousands of people to Joliet. As usual, per Lucas Films and Disney, this event is free to the public, so event sponsors are needed to cover the cost of this popular downtown activity.

Motion to approve the request to be an event sponsor – Linda

Second – Michele

Motion approved

11. Announcement(s)

- Meetings: April 11 at 10:00 a.m. at OSB; September 12 & November 14 at 10:00 a.m. at BRB.
- Sales – May 1-3 at OSB unless BRB is available by then, and October 23-25 at BRB.

12. Adjourn 11:17 a.m.