



MINUTES

July 17, 2025

IN ATTENDANCE: Julie Bernstein, President
Carol Nash, Vice President
Carl Ceithaml, Treasurer
Debbie Rieth, Recording Secretary
Faith Schoon, Corresponding Secretary
Regina Ritrovato, Social Chair
Sarah Skinner, Library Director
Denise Malevitis, Library Staff

ABSENT: None

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

1. Motion to approve minutes of last meeting made by Carl, seconded by Faith Schoon. Minutes were approved.

2. Officers' Reports

a. President's Report: Julie gave special recognition to Carol Nash, who is moving out of the area and resigning her post as Vice President. Carol served on the Friends board for many years, as Recording Secretary, Vice President, and in many other areas, including organizing the annual volunteer luncheon. We appreciate her many years of service.

Julie also reported that the Used Book Sale will take place Friday and Saturday, August 1-2. Set up will be the morning of July 31, with a Friends preview sale that evening from 6:00-7:45pm. Hours for the regular sale will be 10-4 August 1, and 10-2 August 2, with a \$5 bag sale on Saturday.

b. Vice President: Carol reported that the book shoppe looks great.

c. Treasurer: Carl presented his 2nd quarter financial reports. He pointed out that the membership drive added \$3,200 to the treasury.

d. Membership: Faith and Julie worked together on the membership drive and reported membership steady at 82 members.

3. Library Director's Report:

Sarah reported that the summer reading program is in full force with 265 participants. Programs have been well attended and a Magic Show is coming up next. There are some bills for the reading program which will be forwarded to Carl soon.

4. New Business:

Sarah presented a proposal for a **Mural and Artwork Project** for the walls in the Children's Area. This will be a collaboration between the library and Bridgman High School's Art Department. Sarah met with Bridgman High School's art teacher, Jake Zapor, to come up with the proposal, which will involve students submitting mural ideas (literary or nature themed, and appropriate for children of all ages). Following submission of the proposals, a 5-person committee will meet to review them, and choose a 1st place winner, and 2nd and 3rd place runners-up. The winning design will be installed (with students involved) on the wall above the E Readers section, and the runner-up designs will be put on smaller canvases to be installed in the Junior Fiction area.

The process will begin with Mr. Zapor presenting the opportunity to students in the Fall of 2025, with proposals due in December. Winners will be announced in January (2026), and all artwork installations will be completed no later than the end of May (2026).

The grant requested will cover estimated costs for mural painting supplies, canvases and supplies, stipends to the winners, and refreshments for an Artists' Reception after installation.

Upon motion by Debbie, supported by Regina, and unanimously carried, a grant for \$1200 was approved.

Julie presented a **proposal for merchandise** to sell featuring our new Friends of the Library logo. She showed examples of tote bags and mugs. Upon motion by Carol, supported by Regina and unanimously carried, the board approved the purchase of 12 mugs and 25 totes for the cost of approximately \$200. These items may be here in time for sale at the August book sale.

Julie is also working on finding a replacement for Carol as **Vice President**. She has had encouraging conversations with several people who may be interested.

Sarah was also asked if there were any other projects coming up that the Friends could help fund. Sarah said that they are still working on new signage for the library, and the staff is also considering a new shelving system for the overcrowded E Readers section.

Next meeting is October 16, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.