

Minutes

January 22, 2026

In Attendance

Julie Bernstein, President
Debbie Rieth, Recording Secretary
Faith Schoon, Corresponding Secretary
Denise Malevitis, Library Staff
Terri Hebert, Library Director

Absent

Carl Ceithaml, Treasurer

Meeting

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.
2. Motion to approve minutes of the last meeting made by Faith Schoon, seconded by Julie Bernstein. Minutes were approved.
3. Election of Officers: A motion by Debbie Rieth, supported by Faith Schoon to reelect Julie Bernstein as President, Debbie Rieth as Recording Secretary and Faith Schoon as Corresponding Secretary. The office of Vice President remains vacant, and we will continue to reach out to fellow Friends to find a replacement, to make the board complete.

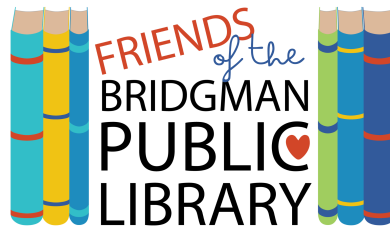
Officers' Reports

President's Report

Julie reported that she sent a letter to all Friends members that outlined all the activities of 2025 for our organization. She also put a Friends poster outside the book shop. Karl Fricke, who volunteers to sell online any donated books that might have an increased value, sold several books for a total of \$170.

Treasurer

Carl forwarded his annual (2025) financial report, along with several comments via email. He pointed out that there were no major expenditures for the quarter, and that some funds were transferred into a certificate of deposit. He explained that we will start showing a profit on tote bags as soon as we sell 7 more. He provided a



ten-year comparison and noted that book shop sales are at their lowest since Covid and prior, however membership income was at the highest in the last ten years. His financial reports will be kept on file.

Membership

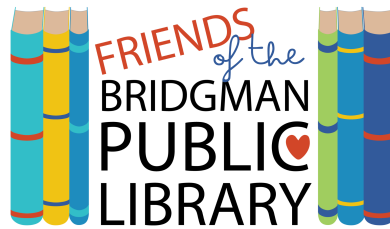
Membership is currently at 104 members.

Library Director's Report

- New Director, Terri Herbert, was welcomed to her first Friends Board meeting! She gave an interesting 2025 recap of library activities, including the following facts. Library visits totaled 43,776 for the year, \$508,753 was saved by patrons versus buying books. Library programs and events were well attended, with 2,039 in the early lit program, 2,028 general kids, 733 young adults, 750 adults, and 847 general programs. Terri also provided copies of the United for Libraries & Penguin Random House Grant Proposal. We are thankful for her work in putting this grant proposal together which, if awarded, would provide funds for the Summer Reading program, including the purchase and related expenses for a live Gargoyle Gecko, and a podcasting studio for children.
- Terri also discussed her consultation with Sharon Ott, a local artist. She proposed utilizing the side surfaces of the large indoor pillars in the library to display revolving artwork. Sharon would display seven pieces of art, the first pieces to be displayed in March/April, and then again in July/August. Her fee would be \$75 for each installation, for a total of \$150. Upon motion by Debbie Rieth and supported by Faith Schoon, this proposal was unanimously approved.
- Mandi Yeske, who leads the Little Explorer program, submitted a request for \$300 to replenish her supply of craft items to use with the group. She has had good participation and positive parental feedback. Upon motion by Julie and supported by Faith, the request was granted unanimously.

Old Business

- To renew the idea of a collaboration between the library and the Bridgman High School Art Department, Julie met with BHS art teacher, Jake Zapor. A plan has been suggested that would be a revision to the initial plan that was approved at the July 16, 2025 meeting. The initial plan included a mural, and



there is not enough time to do a mural project this school year. The new plan would consist of three 24 x 36 canvas paintings, chosen by a selection committee, to be displayed in the library in the children's section. The funding for the original plan was approved at \$1200, but the new revised plan will likely only require \$800.

- A project to purchase and maintain a couple planters outside the entrance of the library was revisited. Debbie will seek the advice of a local person who could help us with this idea.

New Business

- The winter book sale is scheduled for Friday, February 13 (1:00-5:00) and Saturday, February 14 (10:00-2:00). Julie will send out a notice to the Friends to seek volunteers for setup, cleanup and working the sale.
- A discussion was held to choose a Friends volunteer to honor at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in April. National Library Week is held April 19-26, during which the library staff will be honored with a luncheon.
- The possibility of establishing a Friends annual budget was briefly discussed, but tabled until Carl is present to discuss it.

Next meeting

April 16, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned

10:40 a.m.