



ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 18, 2025
3:30-5:00 pm via Zoom

- **Welcome and Call to Order – Gayle Smashey, Co-President**
Present: Gayle Smashey, Bonnie Johnson, Co-Presidents; Cathy Prazenica, Treasurer; Nicky Stanke, Secretary; Board Members Leslie Dawson, Sara Brown, Elaine Hamlin, Linda Thomas, Betsy Gentry, Claudia Everett; Kristin Anderson, Bear Creek Area (Library) Manager; Friends members Susan Rust, Cheryl Bentley, Blair Finney, Julie Sommer, Marilyn and John Love, Don Walton.

- **What’s Happening at the Library? – Kristin Anderson, Bear Creek Area Manager, JCLS.** First, Anderson thanked the Friends of the Library for the ongoing and generous support for all the programs presented at the Library including the monthly symphony small group performances, the children’s crafts programs held every day during school holiday break, and the Dungeons and Dragons games for tweens. In addition, she reported that the newly-installed book lockers at the Ashland Family YMCA provide access to library materials on hold at a southside location for cardholders in the area of the city. The Friends contributed \$35,000 toward the \$70,000 locker purchase and installation. In December, the locker was used by 41 different cardholders receiving 98 items; in January, 45 different cardholders checked out 224 items at the lockers. A book return will be available also, as soon as the concrete can be poured. The JCLS Facilities Master Plan includes an interior update for Ashland. Library staff now is working on ways that the library can be made more accessible for the sensory impaired.

- Board Member Introductions, Elections and Acknowledgments -- Nicky Stanke, Secretary. The following Board members were nominated for re-election (Smashey/Gentry): Claudia Everett, Carrie Forbes, Elaine Hamlin, Bonnie Johnson, and Cathy Prazenica. Election was unanimous.

The following Board members have continuing terms for one more year: Sara Brown, Leslie Dawson, Gayle Smashey, Nicky Stanke, and Linda Thomas. Kristin Anderson will stay on ex officio as Library Liaison.

Retiring Member Betsy Gentry was thanked for her term of service with Friends of the Ashland Public Library and for her volunteer service with Jackson County Library System, prior to joining FOAL. She will continue to help with the Friends Book Sale and with refreshments at Friends events.

- Financial Report – Cathy Prazenica, Treasurer. Prazenica presented the year-end report on the finances: Income budgeted \$27,084, actual \$28,975; expenses budgeted \$32,915, actual \$23,774, resulting in a net income of \$5201. Friends assets at year-end were \$172,290. In 2024, \$35,000 was spent on the book locker. Reserved for the future renovation project is \$75,000, leaving unreserved assets at \$97,290. The balance covers a two- to three-year operating budget balance typically kept in the bank.

- What We Accomplished This Past Year and Our Plans for the Future – Bonnie Johnson, Co-President. The Friends of the Library website showcases the accomplishments and activities of the year including the Sidewalk Sale, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce Sidewalk Sale. The Annual Meeting last year was held during National Library Week in April and offered tours of the Hannon Library (SOU). In addition, the meeting itself enjoyed the presentation by Eddie Lopez, OSF actor, on the theme “From the Page to the Stage,” linking libraries, literature and theater. Later in the Spring, Ashland middle school students were invited to participate in an essay contest describing how a book changed their lives. One hundred essays were received from sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders and were read by the Friends evaluation team. Cash prizes were awarded at a special event in the Library. During October National Friends of the Library Week was celebrated with a presentation by Tara Houston called “Boil, Boil: Shakespeare’s Witches and What to Learn From Them.” Also a panel of librarians discussed “Why Libraries Aren’t Quiet Anymore.” Carrie Forbes from Hannon Library and Kari May from Jackson County Library System spoke to that issue. And last but not least, the Book Locker at the Y opened in December. The future included a ribbon-cutting event for the Book Locker, a social event for all Friends members and supporters, and a National Friends of the Library Week event or events.

Several questions followed the meeting including that the Book Sale is now an ongoing sale, digital services availability, and audio books availability and sources.

- Adjournment at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully yours,

Nicky Stanke
Secretary



2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nominees for Reelection 2025-2027

Claudia Everett, Member-at-Large
Carries Forbes, Membership
Elaine Hamlin, Member-at-Large
Bonnie Johnson, Co-President
Cathy Prazenica, Treasurer

Continuing Terms

Kristin Anderson (ex officio), Library Liaison
Sara Brown, Publicity and Advertising
Leslie Dawson, Book Sale Coordinator
Gayle Smashey, Co-President
Nicky Stanke, Secretary
Linda Thomas, Member-at-Large

Retiring Members

Betsy Gentry, Member-at-Large