

FINAL Minutes

Friends of the Juneau Public Libraries Board Meeting

May 28, 2025

6:00 PM Mendenhall Valley Library

- I. **ATTENDEES: Board members** Andi Hirsh (president), Anne Fuller, Karina Reyes (Secretary), Martha Moore (vice president), Louise Miller, Sue Walker, Amy Carney and Catherine Melville (JPL Director). Others present included: Neala Pierce, Terry Cramer, Sue Trivette, Melinda Sandkam. Treasurer Eva Varadi was absent.

II. **AGENDA:**

A. Agenda accepted

- B. Confirm vote taken by email to approve costs associated with bookstore break-in:
- Changing Locks (Motion was for up to \$1500, paid \$1,174.00)
 - Security Cameras and required support infrastructure, \$188.99 for cameras,

MOTION to approve the agenda and confirm the votes taken by email was moved by Martha and seconded by Sue. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

III. **Approval of minutes**

A. Minutes from previous meeting

MOTION by Anne to approve the February 26, 2025 meeting minutes and seconded by Martha. Sue provided several corrections to the minutes. After the corrections, motion passed by unanimous consent.

IV. **Reports**

A. IT Report by Ann Fuller.

- Wild Apricot is expensive but she recommended that we stay with them since there is no better option at the moment. Catherine mentioned that the AkASL uses Wild Apricot as it's good value for money

B. Bookstore

- security cameras are now installed; Louise is the administrator and has access to the videos
- The bookstore exceeded \$3000 in sales through ebay with the average sales price of \$125
- Treasurer's Report -

C. Quarterly profit and loss statements from January - April 2025 were presented to the board

D. Bookstore relocation - Sue provided the following summary of the bookstore relocation committee's process and recommendations:

- They explored all available spaces, sought legal advice, and have identified a location in the Mendenhall Mall.

- Current location is problematic as the Building is not maintained; burglaries and other social problems like homelessness is driving away customers
- Met with attorney who advises on how to get out of lease
- We could sue but we do not want to have large legal expenses
- We could pay out the rest of our lease. It would cost us the remaining rent which is about 99K
- Estimate 20K to move the store but we will likely make more money in our new space
- Landlord has obligation to minimize our cost by renting out the space
- Finding someone to sublet it from us is also an option

E. LIBRARY REPORT

- The library applied for NEA Big Reads and bring Mary Roach to town
- NEA is in a holding pattern since they don't know if they have money to give. If the library doesn't hear from NEA by July, they will begin to use the grant from the FOJPL
- In March, President Trump's executive order severely reduced IMLS services. This negatively impacts all libraries around the country. IMLS paid for Inter Library Loan services. By the first week of May, ILLs stopped.
- Another piece is the Alaska library extension where our state library provides services all around Alaska; this employs 3 staff members; library within a library; JPL has funds to continue until 6/30 and that's it. All staff affected will be getting a lay off notice.
- An increment request was filed with the city government. The City assembly wanted JPL to continue services; JPL went to finance and asked for money so we could maintain services.
 - a) Assembly finance committee approved moving JPL's increment request out of committee; this restores ILL in-house and enables JPL to make up the money from IMLS
 - b) staff spent time in the downtown library, creating part time positions so JPL won't have to change hours.
 - c) Messaging from JPL community, engaging membership politically and speaking out how important libraries are to them is very important
 - d) Catherine spoke about a new degree of hostility against libraries in the current climate.
- MJ Grande mentioned that the city pays for building and personnel. Everything else comes from the help of the FOJPL. Author, presenters, materials etc paid for by FOJPL. Thank you! Everyone knows that the donations to the bookstore helps programming in the library.

- Tremendous change to access literacy in this town; no more fines in the library; our community supports our library; story time, elementary and middle school visits to promote library are happening
- Flyers handed out for summer program
- Ann shared a binder that Melinda showed of recent outreach programs and engagement with the library:
 - a) Adult Clothing Swap
 - b) Alaska Chess Club tournaments - Chess 101 (human size chessboard)
 - c) Game Days
 - d) Tech Support sessions
 - e) Baby Raven Reads - Officially launched on Tuesday and at least 5 children have already completed this and received a free book
 - f) Creative Writing for All
 - g) Bike to the Library Day
 - h) MiniCon table and prize drawings
- Thanks for support of mini con
 - a) Guest artists included Raina Telgemeier and Scott McCloud
 - b) We had over 300 engagements at the FOL & Library table
- Outreach & youth services is working to reach more people
- Meeting with Zach Gordon
- Also discussing going to Cedar Park and the Rotary library caboose
- we will be in the 4th of July parade
- Shoutout to Elizabeth Pisel-Davis who is now part of library outreach
- FOL pays for food, flyers and programs that increase the community engagement with the library

V. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS;

A. Alexandria Capital

- Motion by Sue Walker and seconded by Andi to allow the Friends of the Library to instruct Alexandria Capital to add individual fixed income bonds as an option to our portfolio. This motion passed by unanimous consent.
- The board discussed the asset allocation at Alexandria Capital. Motion by Anne and seconded by Sue to approve a new investment policy statement for Alexandria Capital. This motion passed by unanimous consent. (see above)

B. Membership and political action

- Andi said her goal was getting more people to be members of FOJPL, noting that there were currently about 270 members. She said that having more members makes it more likely the organization can successfully advocate for their goals, such as thanking the Assembly for their support of the library. She asked if anyone on the board had an interest in heading memberships and promotion.

C. Volunteer appreciation

- Martha proposed 11/11/2025 for a volunteer appreciation event.
Catherine said the Valley library could be used.

D. Discussion of moving the bookstore

- There was discussion about moving the bookstore from its current location due to multiple issues that have surfaced in the past years including floods, plumbing problems, burglaries and other unresolved health and safety issues.
- A special meeting will be held to further discuss bookstore relocation prior to the end of the current lease.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm

VII. Next meeting at Douglas Public Library, Wednesday August 27 at 6:00pm

Final draft respectfully Submitted by: Karina Reyes, Board Secretary

August 25, 2025

Revised August 27, 2025