

## FOLIO Board Meeting

### Minutes

10:00 a.m., September 29, 2023

Chickasha Public Library

527 W. Iowa Ave., Chickasha, OK

Present in Chickasha: Judy Haught, Melinda Howard, Angie Lewis, Sharon Saulmon, Terry Jordan, Connie Armstrong, Eugene Earsom, Natalie Currie

Present Online: Bill Young, Candace Baird, Gerry Hendon, Bill Hagen, Wayne Hanway, Dana Belcher

**Call to order** – The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by President Judy Haught.

**Welcome to Chickasha** - Vice President Angie Lewis welcomed the FOLIO Board to Chickasha. The Chickasha Arts Festival is a great activity to participate in after the meeting.

**Welcome new board member** - Judy welcomed new board member Terry Jordan.

**Book Discussion** – Everyone briefly highlighted a book they had read.

- *For Those Who Are Lost* by Julia Bryan Thomas – Judy Haught
- *A Child's War: The German Occupation of Guernsey as Seen Through Young Eyes* by Molly Binet – Judy Haught
- *The Jamestown Experiment: The Remarkable Story of the Enterprising Colony and the Unexpected Results That Shaped America* by Tony Williams – Melinda Howard
- *Color of Lightning* and *Simon the Fiddler* by Paulette Giles – Eugene Earsom
- *The Ride of Her Life: The True Story of a Woman, Her Horse, and Their Last-Chance Journey Across America* by Elizabeth Letts – Sharon Saulmon
- *Rules of Prey* by John Sanford – Terry Jordan
- *For a Love of His People; The Photography of Horace Poolaw* by Nancy Marie Mithlo and Horace Poolaw – Terry Jordan
- *Rebel with a Clause* by Ellen Jovan - Natalie Currie
- *Jane Eyre* – Connie Armstrong
- *Disruptions: Stories* by Steven Millhauser – Bill Young
- *The Splendid and the Vile* (Churchill), *The Devil in the White City* and *In the Garden of Beasts* (American ambassador and the Nazi leadership - 1930s) all by Erik Larson – Bill Hagen
- *1638: The Sovereign States* by Eric Flint – Candace Baird

- *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray – Candace Baird
- *Sold on a Monday* by Kristina McMorris – Gerry Hendon
- *Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law* by Mary Roach – Wayne Hanway
- *The Long Road to Happy — A Sister's Journey Through Her Brother's Disabilities* by Diane Morrow-Kondos – Dana Belcher

**Minutes from June 30, 2023** meeting – The FOLIO Board standing rule is that minutes are to be drafted and distributed within two weeks, and two weeks are given for corrections to be submitted. Revisions are then made and distributed. Unless glaring errors are later found, the revised minutes stand approved. *[This rule was developed to avoid the three-month lagtime for the minutes being available and approved.]*

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Candace Baird sent a preliminary report. This quarterly report will not be finalized until mid-October when the bank statements are received. A motion was made to approve the preliminary treasurer's report. Melinda Howard made the motion and Sharon Saulmon seconded.

**President's Report** – Judy Haught had sent her report before the meeting. Several comments were given, appreciating Judy's writing style and information.

#### **Committee Reports and Essential Business:**

**Okla. Dept. of Libraries/Federal Relations** – ODL Director Natalie Currie had sent a written report before the meeting and reviewed the information.

- Several staff changes were highlighted.
- ODL's Budget requests for FY2025 included: restoring State Aid to Public Libraries to 2010 level adjusted for inflation, adding back 10 positions needed, improving technology in Archives, setting up inventory management in Archives, and maintaining the ODL budget accounting for inflation.
- Several interim studies are of interest to libraries focusing on workforce development, tort reform, education (high school graduation, reading scores, capital needs for rural colleges & universities), ad valorem tax, and county purchasing.
- Broadband Expansion and Technology Adoption is continuing. ODL is exploring project proposals to submit to the Oklahoma Broadband Office (OBO) to increase internet speeds in public libraries and is advising OBO on statewide approach to digital skills building for State Digital Equity Plan.
- A Special Session is planned for the State Legislature on October 3.
- Detailed information was in the report on some federal issues and censorship attempts in the news in other states.
- A fundraiser is underway to renovate the Territorial Museum in Guthrie.
- ODL is continuing its membership in the American Library Association.

Best Friends Award - Melinda Howard reported that the application is available on the web site with the deadline of December 30. An article will be in the newsletter. Hopefully the Outreach Ambassadors will be able to forward information to libraries in their area. An email went to all public library directors about the next newsletter deadline, Best Friends Awards, Scholarships and FOL Week Awards.

Friends of Libraries Week Award - Angie Lewis had to leave, but has the updated application on the web site with the November 15 deadline. Reminders from the Outreach Ambassadors would be helpful here, too.

Hall of Fame has no report.

Seed Grants - Bill Hagen had no report.

Scholarships - Teresia Jors has sent information out about the scholarship applications. The deadline for applications is December 30.

By-laws - Wayne Hanway had no report.

Endowment - Melinda Howard has developed a letter to solicit donations for the Endowment, which will be mailed during FOL Week. An article will be in the newsletter.

Financial Review/Audit – A committee is forming to conduct the annual audit.

History/Archives has no report.

Legislative - Sharon Saulmon reported that Kim Johnson, CEO of Tulsa City-County Library, is the chair this year. The OLA Advocacy Committee meets the first Friday of each month. Friends need to rethink our attitudes about advocacy. The freedom to read is under attack. Our local leaders and legislators need to be made aware of our views on Right to Read and the First Amendment.

#### Literary Landmarks

- Judy Haught & Connie Armstrong reported that they are exploring names, since “Literary Landmark” is trademarked. They proposed Literary Landscape Sites. Connie is going to contact United for Libraries and see if permission to use Literary Landmark is a possibility.
- They are going to rewrite the selection criteria and bring it up-to-date. They think they have identified a place to have plaques made. A Memorandum of Understanding will be developed between the Center for the Book, FOLIO, and Friends of the Center for the Book.
- It would be great if we could make the Literary Landmarks tourist attractions with signs.

Membership - Candace Baird reported that she is preparing the Excel membership database to be transferred to new web site.

Newsletter - Sharon Saulmon said the deadline for the next newsletter is early next week. Connie said she had an article for the newsletter.

Nominating - Wayne Hanway said that Vice President and Secretary nominations will be needed for 2024-26 officers. A Secretary is needed now. Additional FOLIO Board members are needed. Each Board member is challenged to recruit an additional member.

#### Outreach Ambassadors

- A. Northeast - Candace Baird and Karen Alexander – No report
- B. Northwest - Karen Neurohr and Linda Pye – No report
  - Melinda reported that Friends of the Metropolitan Library System are having their “Better Books” Sale at OSU-OKC. Books are individually priced \$3 and up. The Friends are looking at ways to reduce the cost of their Big Sale.
- C. Southeast - Bill Hagen and Teresia Jors
  - Shawnee is having its fall Book Sale.
- D. Southwest - Angie Lewis and Terry Jordan
  - Sayre Public Library Friends had questions about tax exempt status that they resolved.
  - Angie met with Friends of the Elgin Community Library and discussed board dynamics, book sale, and fundraisers. She is continuing to assist with book sale questions.
  - The new Cache Library is planned to open in mid-November. The Librarian has sorted books, connected to internet access and is scanning books. She will organize volunteers soon and plans to begin a Friends group.
  - Angie represented FOLIO at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation’s Annual Celebration Reception.

#### Publicity/Media/Marketing

- Facebook - Sharon Saulmon reported that Facebook statistics are beyond all records with over six million reach this quarter, thanks to Taylor Swift and Barbie posts. The final quarterly report will be forwarded in mid-October.
- Website—Candace Baird
  - The new web site will include a database of FOLIO members.
  - Bruce Stone is now available to assist with changing the domain.
  - Kirk Baird, Candace’s husband, is retiring and has web experience. Candace is anticipating his assistance in moving information to the new system.
  - Not a whole lot of changes will be made as we move systems.
  - We do need to make an effort to get email addresses for all members. We may need to call. Individuals stay on the membership list three or four years. Libraries

and Friends of Library groups receive the newsletter for free whether they are a member or not.

- FOLIO needs to decide how memberships will work in the future. Do we want to continue the July to June fiscal year OR let people join at will with membership effective for 12 months after they join? Gerry made the motion that memberships be on a one-year basis from the date they join. Melinda seconded. Motion carried.

#### Special Projects—Sharon Saulmon

- Conference – Sharon Saulmon proposed having a Friends of Libraries meeting on a Saturday in October, 2024 at the Moore Public Library. Melinda made the motion and Sharon seconded. Motion carried. Judy will name a committee or task force to plan the event.
  - Program ideas included: Keynote – advocacy, importance of friends, Creative Book Sale ideas, Creative fundraising ideas, Author and catered lunch, Stand Up for Standout Friends recognition.
- Stand Up for Standout Friends Award – Sharon Saulmon proposed adding a Stand Up for Standout Friends Award for local Friends to recognize local Friends volunteers doing exceptional work. Terry made the motion and Melinda seconded. Motion Carried.
  - Each member Friends’ group is invited to nominate an outstanding Friend with the criteria is set locally.
  - The nominator has 3-5 min. to honor recipient at conference. Certificate is presented.
  - Possible ways to honor each of Standout Friends: Facebook page, list them on our web site, and/or provide a draft press release that they could adapt and forward to local newspapers.
- Exhibit – The exhibit at the conference was discussed.
  - Staff the booth - We need to plan to staff the table for Thursday and Friday.
  - “Come on” - We brainstormed various “come on” possibilities – membership coupons, book drawings for Julia Bryan Thomas’ book, or book drawings for gift books. The motion was made that we will have a book drawing of gift books by Melinda and seconded by Sharon. Motion carried. We will each have a title for the book drawing at the January meeting so that book drawing slips can be prepared.
  - Banner – Our banner is wonderful but hotels don’t want it attached to their walls and volunteers don’t want to deal with keeping it attached to the table. Natalie suggested getting a FOLIO tablecloth.
  - Booth supplies were sent home with Judy.

## Unfinished Business

- The Oklahoma Library Association Conference online registration deadline is February 6.
- FOLIO registration will be \$30.

## New Business

- Judy highlighted the conference program plans for the FOLIO Meeting at the OLA Conference on Friday, March 8.
  - Author Julia Bryan Thomas
  - Starting or Reviving a Friends group, which will include writing a MOU and a lawyer discussing starting a nonprofit organization.
  - Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped
  - Members' meeting/FOLIO Board meeting

Judy said that exciting things are happening in FOLIO with the upcoming conference, literary landmarks, endowment, ongoing services and upcoming new web site. We need to encourage advocacy for library funding as well as for the freedom to read and to identify new FOLIO Board members.

## Announcements:

Banned Books Week—October 1-7, 2023

TeenTober—October

Friends of Libraries Week—October 15-21, 2023

Friends of Libraries Week Awards Application deadline—November 15, 2023

Best Friends Awards Application deadline—December 30, 2023

Scholarship Application deadline—December 30, 2023

OLA Annual Conference, Hyatt Regency Downtown, Tulsa, Ok—March 6-8, 2024

FOLIO Day at OLA Annual Conference—March 8, 2024

Next Meeting—January 26, 2023

**Oklahoma Library Association (OLA) Report** – OLA President Dana Belcher had to leave the meeting early, but forwarded a report to the board. The OLA conference is March 6-8 with two pre-conferences planned on media interviewing and getting a library job. Major speakers include Alan Gratz and John Herrington. OLA has partnered with OU School of Library and Information Studies in a mentor program. Openings are available for mentors and mentees.

OLA wants to continue sharing stories of the great things happening in Oklahoma libraries. Libraries or friends may send stories to <https://www.oklibs.org/page/LibraryStoryForm> or email [marketing@oklibs.org/](mailto:marketing@oklibs.org/). OLA is updating and streamlining bylaws, handbook, policies, etc.

Adjourn 12:17 p.m.