

Friends of the Brooks Memorial Library Board Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2025

Present: Karen, Connie Cline, Sharon, Janice—there is no quorum.

Call to order at about 4:40

Secretary's report – *Did we approve the minutes?*

Treasurer's report: Major expense was a payment to Overdrive for magazine subscriptions, \$5000. We received a donation of \$5000. We also received \$16,000 grant from The Thompson Trust to purchase computers for the library.

Presidents' report: Thank you to the committee who organized the What's Cooking event. Karen informed us that the library has a home delivery service for people who are homebound.

Debrief of "what's cooking": Great idea, but low attendance. Lots of people said they would come but didn't. It was a beautiful night, people might have done outdoors things. Maybe more would have attended if it was on a different night, or on a night when the library was open. People who did attend were engaged with the demonstrations and how to check something out on the website. We discussed how to make the library of things more visible on the website, rather than having to click twice. Should we start selling tickets to these events, rather than by donation—this would make people commit. Perhaps if it was held in April or May, rather than June when there are so many competing events. Idea for next year: cookies and tea, read-alouds of first chapters of the most popular books, do it in a colder month, Sharon will make Mexican Hot Chocolate. Wish list votes—rice cooker and power washer got 4 votes each, tied for most votes.

Date/plan for September ice cream: Gallery Walk date is Sept. 5. Would like to have a spot in Harmony Lot but that may not be possible. Starr will contact Erin to get us a spot.

Book Sale discussion: Start collecting books on September 1. Amanda has created a spreadsheet of all the things to remember.

4th of July Parade: Starr would like to have a presence in the parade from the Friends; Karen agreed to come but Sharon, Connie, and Janice are not available. Wearing butterfly wings was mentioned as a tie-in to the Summer Reading theme of Community Science. Karen will try to drum up participants.

Summer 2026 Garden Party: Sharon wants to get more people to come to this, now that she has expanded her gardens. Personal outreach, get the message out that this funds the library, appeal to big donors. Discussed how the Museum does their annual parties, can we do something like that? They send out invitations; we could do something like that by looking at our

donors list. Having a goal for what we want to do with the money we raise might draw more people. Starr offered that the big grant they received can't include money to buy plantings, so maybe garden party proceeds could go toward that. Big Woods Voices acapella group might be invited. Could we honor someone? Could we invite people to bring easels and paints, and raffle off the paintings?

Library News/requests:

Expenses this month...(these have since all been approved by the board via email)

- Promo for teen program was higher than expected = \$581.67
- Starr purchased 2 chairs for the teen room = \$100
- We need to pay for mileage for Dana Williams, the Butterfly speaker = \$75
- Total = \$756.67

Amanda's requests & recommendations - she will send you what she provided to us...

- We agreed to increase the pool pass from one to two
- The Fairbanks Museum pass now includes the Butterfly House
- Amanda researched a pass for the Park-McCullough House in Bennington, but we all agreed it was too costly and we didn't think it would be used much.
- Amanda provided a report on the usage of the passes so far this year. It's a good reminder of all the wonderful passes we have!
- The Adult Summer Reading Program has launched. Amanda provided us all with cards & we agreed we would not be eligible for the raffle.
- The Butterfly Atlas Training will be on Saturday, June 28 - Amanda has flyers and it's on the website
- Park McCullough Historic Mansion in Bennington reached out to us to buy a pass for \$100/year—Amanda doesn't recommend buying it at this time because of limited hours and months, and because people don't go out there.
- Amanda has a list of all passes she's researched, we can refer to it when we want.

Adjourn at ?

Respectfully submitted by Janice Stockman