

**RIVER FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
FINAL MINUTES
August 13, 2025, 4:30pm via Zoom**

Present: Terry Gwiazdowski, Gina Dallara, Linda Swan, Damien Olsen; Rosalie Abbott; Eve Goldberg

Absent: Solon Teal, Barbara Maes

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Linda motioned and Gina seconded that the minutes from the April 9, 2025, meeting be approved as typed. Vote was unanimous to approve.

Library Administration Update: Eve Goldberg

- The refreshed Petaluma Branch will be holding its reopening ceremony on August 25th. A special walk-through for staff and friends will be held at 8:45 am with the grand reopening ceremony held at 9:30 am.
- The Library is still working with the Union to get a new contract signed.
- The Commission has approved funds for the library to participate in the State Building Forward Together program, a joint Library, City of Rohnert Park and State endeavor to renovate the Rohnert Park Library.
- The Commission is also working through two task forces – one to review the Joint Powers agreement – which needs to be done every 10 years and one for oversight of Facilities/Capital Improvements so that the Library can more efficiently spend the funds needed for all the remaining branch refresh projects and the new building in the Roseland area of Santa Rosa.

Branch Managers Report: Rosalie Abbott

- Rosalie introduced herself and talked about her library career. She started out working in a library to help pay her college costs. She then worked in a couple university libraries and then became a Teen Librarian with Sebastopol Library in 2017. In 2022 she was promoted to Branch Manager of the Roseland Library and put in a transfer to Guerneville after Mel left. This is her dream job. She loves the outdoors and is very happy being in the lower Russian River area. She appreciates the great team she has at all three branches.
- The study pods have arrived at Guerneville and have been used well already.
- Summer Reading is over, and it was a great success.
- Staff are continuing outreach to the Senior Center and other locations.
- Allison held a very popular Teddy Bear Picnic in honor of Lazy Bear Weekend, and the branch was very busy all during that time.

- She also mentioned that a on-call worker at Guerneville's mother is a previous branch manager from the 60s and 70s – Helen Hintereder – who has been visiting the branch again.
- Rosalie also discussed Forestville Library and the fact that it may be possible to review the terms of the lease down the road so that more of the space at the old El Molino High School could be used. But she did say that in addition to Lagun High students attending there, more groups are coming so that it is much better utilized now than when El Molino and Analay High merged.
- Damien asked Rosalie what her favorite book is and first she said she mostly likes nonfiction, but she is currently reading "Funny Story" by Emily Henry. Eve said she just started with a nonfiction book club and is looking forward to it. They are reading "The Secret History of the Rape Kit" by Pagan Kennedy.
- Rosalie then explained about silent book clubs. They are kind of like a rave where people descend on a coffee shop say, order something, then sit down and everyone opens a book and quietly reads. Sounds like fun!

Presidents report – Terry Gwiazdowski

- Terry discussed the meeting she had with Barbara Maes, Rosalie, herself and Ursula. She said the quote from the manufacturer of the shelving units at Guerneville – Ross MacDonald – is quite high for a similar sized unit would be over \$8,000.00, so we said if the Library could find us something less expensive than that – we would like that. Rosalie has found another unit from another branch refit that looks similar and is about the same size, so we are looking into that one. Terry will follow up with Rosalie.
- As we know – the Library had approximately \$30,000.00 from previous times we sent in funds for librarian requests, and these funds were kept and not used even though the library received many of the items they requested. So instead, we have been using those funds for recent requests such as donating about \$2,500.00 to the purchase of the two new study pods and about \$25,000.00 for the new furniture and equipment for Forestville Library. Because we have pretty much depleted those funds, the Library is asking us to donate approximately \$30,000.00 sometime in the near future for a Bibliobox for Occidental Library if they are able to move to a new location at the Occidental Community Center. This is a big ask and the board will take it under advisement at our Executive Session.
- Ursula and Terry are working together to get a memorial bench in honor of Children's Librarian Carol Singleton with Library Admin approval. Terry will keep the board informed as we move forward.
- Terry and Ursula are also working with Library Admin on getting a gardening shed for the tools and supplies that the River Friends Patio group use to take care of the library patio. Terry will keep the board informed as we move forward with this.

Treasurer's report: Solon Teal (via email)

- Solon sent in an email report
- We have a balance of \$58,312.12 in the bank.
- Since last meeting (June 25), we have had \$600.00 of revenue (Memberships, book carts), with an *additional* \$350.47 that hasn't been reflected in the bank accounts yet (pending cash deposit). Therefore, over this period we had \$950.47 in revenue.

- Expenses were \$2,716.52 (Library requests, librarian gift, librarian party, and other operating costs). The net income was -\$2,116.52 (again, this deficit is in reality \$350.47 smaller).
- On the QuickBooks side, I've been putting together a project plan and understanding existing setup to transfer as much as I can while also avoiding completely starting from scratch. I expect to have made significant progress within the next few weeks. That should make more of this reporting easier, as well as some of the reimbursements--my aim is to streamline that process.
- Let me know if you have any other questions. I hope it's a great meeting, and I plan to be at the next one.

Membership – Gina Dallara

- There was no change since last meeting. We still have 112 total paid members of which 59 are lifetime members. In late October or early November Gina will send out reminder letters to all the folks that did not reply to her annual membership renewal letter in April, so she should know more at the end of the year if we get more memberships.

Book and Bake sale – Linda Swan

- Our September book sale is coming up and we have been filling the volunteer slots, but there are still some that need to be filled.
- Linda had sent around a spread sheet that Sandy Gain put together on the prices and numbers of books by Dorothy Allison we have. We started the discussion on how to price some of the items as they are well over \$100.00 a copy. It was decided that we would discuss it more fully at our Executive Session, but it would be good to get a group together to work on it before the sale. The suggestion was to ask the book and bake sale committee and members of the board to meet sometime soon to figure it out. Linda will send out that request soon.
- Terry volunteered to make any signs that would be displayed at the sale.

Readers Theatre: Damien Olsen

- There has been no movement on this committee yet. Damien is working on getting the past scripts together.

Other Topics/Discussion

- Ursula joined the meeting to discuss Halloween. Terry explained to Rosalie how important Halloween is to Guerneville and that if we can secure Friday, October 31st for most of the day, we would appreciate it. Rosalie will book that date for us for the entire day.
- Ursula said she would be happy to coordinate the Halloween event if she had help. Gina, Damien and Terry agreed to help.

Meeting adjourned 5:22 p.m. Executive Session followed.

Action items are underlined.

Minutes submitted by Terry Gwiazdowski, President