

## **Friends of the Lacey Timberland Library**

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

**March 10, 2026**

**Call to Order:** Sally Fitzgerald, Co-President, called meeting to order at 12:33 pm.

**Board Members Present:** Becky Russell, Larry Russell, Rob Conor, Carrie Martin, Sally Fitzgerald, Marian Lemon, Dennis Powell, Darcy Perry, Mary Gardner, Melanie Jenner and Gwen Culp

**Guests:** Nicole Page, Jane Collins

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes for January 12, 2026 were approved.

#### **Reports:**

**Lacey Library Manager:** Nicole Page reported for Library Manager, Kristina Hancock. Due to the current financial crisis at Timberland, there will be staff layoffs. Layoffs will be confirmed on 3/15/26. The number of district performers will be reduced for the Summer Library Program. The Lacey Library will be closed for 6 to 9 months for a “refresh” starting in September; no news on an alternate library location during the closure or possible access to the meeting room or shed. There’s strong appreciation for the MakerSpace passes that FOLL helped fund. TRL has centralized purchasing so tracking expenses is taking longer for the Lacey Library. There will be a new process for FOLL to buy snacks for the staff. It was suggested that FOLL can provide additional funds for the collection or SLP books or other purposes. Rob reported that 70 FOLL-provided coupons for a free book were used in 2025. Nicole commented that more SLP books would be appreciated, especially graphic novels for kids. Discussed possibility of funding additional copies of BookPage.

**Website / Mailchimp:** Dennis Powell reported all FOLL Board job descriptions are now posted on the website. FOLL subscription to Mailchimp was free for 500 subscribers; recently changed to 250 free subscribers. New subscription fee is \$14.26/month for 250-500 subscribers. It was agreed that to pay the new subscription fee with the FOLL credit card and investigate an annual subscription after the library remodel closure.

**Co-Presidents:** Sally Fitzgerald / Carrie Martin – Sally reported that the damage to the shed is not covered under the warranty; repair is planned after the April 3-4 book sale.

**Treasurer:** Rob Conor presented the January and February 2026 financial statements. Total sales at February Book Sale was \$2576.90. FOLL started using Square at the February sale for credit card sales. Buyers were asked if they would cover the fees. FOLL paid \$30 in fees; \$3.50 was reimbursed by buyers. \$937.50 was paid through Square including memberships. 2026 Book Place sales through February are \$2766.10; Hawks Prairie sales are \$451.66. eBay sales for April 2025 through February 2026 were \$3,374. FOLL receives 60-85% of the eBay sale price.

**Secretary:** Gwen Culp reported that thank you notes were sent for 3 new Lifetime memberships and a thank you letter to the Nisqually Tribe for the \$4,000 grant for Lacey Loves to Read.

**Book Sales / Book Sorts:** Sally Fitzgerald, Darcy Perry, Melanie Jenner & Carrie Martin – Sally reported there may be a one-day public sale on Friday, May 1.

**Publicity:** Gwen Culp distributed copies of the April book sale flyer; brochures were updated to add eBay sales QR code and copies printed.

**Membership:** Marian Lemon reported 25 new members and 45 renewals since January; a total of 465-470 members.

**Book Place:** Mary Gardner reported donations have been down but were good this week. She received a thank you note from Salish Middle School for the cookbooks FOLL donated for their Cook-to-Connect project. Their goal is 300 cookbooks for 2026; have received 100 so far.

**Hawks Prairie:** Sally Fitzgerald & Melanie Jenner – Melanie reported sales have been good; will need to stock up on books to sell during the Lacey closure.

**Books for Babies:** Becky Russell reported that after the February sale she took a box of books to Pleasant Glade Elementary and 6-8 boxes to Timberline High School which will be shared with other school librarians and possibly teachers. She plans to take a box to Chambers Prairie Elementary after April sale. In December, she took books to the NTPS Family & Youth Resource Center. Some books may go to South Sound Reading Foundation. Books for Babies – the nurses have asked for bookmarks with library information.

**New Business:**

- **Historian** – Larry Russell asked for volunteers to discuss guidelines about FOLL documents and archiving at the Lacey Historical Museum.
- Gift cards for staff - Larry made a motion to “Give all Lacey Library staff a \$50 Fred Meyer gift card.” Motion passed.

**Meeting Adjourned at 2:23 pm.**

**Next Board Meeting is May 12, 2026 at 12:30pm**

Note: On March 24, 2026, FOLL emailed a letter to the Thurston County Commissioners with a copy to the TRL Board of Trustees and Lacey City Council requesting an investigation into the sudden financial crisis at TRL. On March 26, 2026 the Friends of the Centralia Library sent a joint letter to the TRL Board from 12 Friends groups regarding the budget crisis and layoffs. Sally Fitzgerald, Co-President, signed on behalf of FOLL. FOLL signed on to a 4/17/26 letter to TRL Board of Trustees and Thurston County Commissioners, written by Jann Hoppler, Olympia Friends President, requesting that Friends members be allowed to serve on the TRL Board.