

Friends of the Lacey Timberland Library

Board Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2026

Call to Order: Carrie Martin, Co-President, called meeting to order at 12:32 pm.

Board Members Present: Becky Russell, Larry Russell, Rob Conor, Carrie Martin, Marian Lemon, Dennis Powell, Darcy Perry, and Gwen Culp

Guests: Kristina Hancock

Approval of Minutes: Minutes for March 10, 2026 were approved.

Reports:

Lacey Library Manager: Kristina Hancock reported that the Lacey Library remodel has been postponed. The library will be closed the week of June 1 for HVAC replacement and will reopen on June 8. Shelving in the children's area will be condensed to create more open play area; Children's programming has been reorganized into new groups – Baby Storytime, Birth-5, Pre-Reader; there will be a break in story times from May 18 to June 22. Due to staff reductions, the Hawks Prairie Library will be closed on Mondays and hours on Saturday and Sunday are reduced to 10-2. TRL has restarted conversations regarding locating a TRL library in the NTPS LEAF (Lacey Education and Family) Center which is scheduled to open in Fall 2027. TRL will fund a book giveaway for kids during the Summer Library Program (SLP); asking to pull books from donations to give to adults; requesting to handout "TRL Friends of the Library" book sale coupons (up to \$5). Discussed a "TRL Friends" coupon vs a "FOLL coupon"; agreed to the TRL coupon. Library is asking FOLL volunteers to help with SLP signup.

Co-Presidents: Sally Fitzgerald / Carrie Martin – Carrie thanked members who repaired the shed and Dennis for the website which other FOLs envy. Officers and members attended a number of meetings with other FOLs and TRL Board members, and the Lacey City Library Board meeting. FOLL sent letters: 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.

Books for Babies: Becky Russell reported that after the April sale she took a box of books to Chambers Prairie Elementary Library, 6 boxes to River Ridge High School Library that will be shared with other high and middle schools, 1 box to St Mark Lutheran Church for the free library at their free laundry service. Purchased 110 books for the Thurston County nurses. Rinae has been taking some of the discarded children's books to the 7th Day Adventist Church for their homeless shelter.

Historian: Larry Russell has been developing categories for organizing historical files. Will report more in July,

Treasurer: Rob Conor presented the March and April 2026 financial reports. Created a new revenue category Other Book Sales for purchases not associated with the Lacey Book Place or Hawks Prairie book shelves. Will review possible adjustments to the budget since the Lacey remodel has been postponed. We had not anticipated October and December sales in 2026 because of the remodel closure. He'll bring a recommendation regarding the budget to the July meeting.

Secretary: No report.

Book Sales / Book Sorts: Sally Fitzgerald, Darcy Perry, Melanie Jenner & Carrie Martin – Carrie reported that the June 5-6 book sale is canceled because the Library will be closed for HVAC repairs that week. Darcy needs a picnic committee; will contact last year's members. Decided to go with sandwiches again at the picnic after the July 7 Board meeting at Beachcrest.

Publicity: Gwen Culp reported that FOLL Board meetings (except the July meeting) are now included in the TRL events calendar. The public is welcome to attend the meetings

Membership: Marian Lemon reported 23 new members and 21 renewals since March 11. She will bring a list of lifetime members to the July meeting for review.

Book Place: Rob reported \$350 in sales last week.

Hawks Prairie: Sally Fitzgerald & Melanie Jenner – Carrie reported that Melanie is recruiting volunteers for Hawks Prairie.

Website / Mailchimp: Dennis Powell reported he will send out an email about the canceled June book sale. He is monitoring the Friends gmail account and forwards emails to various others to answer. He reminds all to forward email responses to the original sender instead of replying to the email, which just sends it back to him

Unfinished Business: Brief discussion about possible updates to bylaws later this year. Do the bylaws need to cover gifts (to the staff) and background checks or is this adequately covered by TRL policies? Per the Bylaws, the President represents the FOLL. Several letters were sent on behalf of FOLL recently. Do we need a vote of the Board members or is this simply representing FOLL? There was general agreement that the officers can sign such letters without a vote.

New Business: Rob Conor reported that FOLL has a \$70k 7-month CD that will mature in June. We can renew for 6 or 12 months. We could also add funds to the CD. He will bring a recommendation to the July meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Next Board Meeting is Tuesday, July 7, 2026 at 10:00am at Beachcrest.