



High Plains Library District Friends & Foundation Board of Directors

Regular Session

May 5, 2025

LINC

4:00pm

1. OPENING OF MEETING

Meeting Opened At: 4:07 pm

1.1. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Director Taylor

Present via voice conference: Secretary/Treasurer Forland, Director Schnirel, Director Amodio, Director Evans

Excused: Director Wailes, Director Starr, Director Epperson

Staff present: Executive Director Matthew Hortt, Foundation Director Niamh Mercer, Finance Manager Natalie Wertz, Development Coordinator Christina Hardman, Friends and Foundation Associate Lauren Vanderlinden

Others present: Alanna Moses (Anderson and Whitney)

1.2. Approval of Agenda (Action)

Motion: Director Evans

Second: Director Amodio

Vote: Unanimously approved, 5;0

1.3. Approval of November 4, 2024 Minutes (Action)

Motion: Secretary/Treasurer Forland

Second: Director Schnirel

Due to the absence of any other Board members who attended the 2024 Q4 meeting in question, the Vice Chair directed that this item be postponed until the next meeting.

1.4. Approval of February 3, 2025 Minutes (Action)

Motion: Secretary/Treasurer Forland

Second: Director Evans

Vote: Unanimously approved, 5;0

1.5. Public Comment

No public comment.

2. ITEMS FOR ACTION/INFORMATION

2.1. Board of Directors Icebreaker (Information)

The Board of Directors each shared some of the first books they remembered reading as children.

2.2. 2024 HPLD Friends & Foundation Audit (Action), Natalie Wertz, Finance Manager and Alanna Moses, Anderson and Whitney

Motion: Director Clark

Second: Director Amodio

Vote: Unanimously approved, 5;0

The Board approved the 2024 Audit with an edit made to page 13 of the audit to correct an error where investment income was listed as investment loss.

2.3. Nominations to Committees (Action)

Motion: Secretary/Treasurer Forland

Second: Director Amodio

Vote: Unanimously approved, 5;0

The Board approved the addition of Directors Epperson and Schnirel to the Friends committee.

2.4. Volunteer Background Check Policy (Information)

Foundation Director Niamh Mercer presented updates on the Friends and Foundation's progress toward drafting and implementing a volunteer background check policy.

2.5. 2025 Board Notebook (Information)

Foundation Director Niamh Mercer shared information about the 2025 Board Notebook, which is now available for Board members digitally through Talent LMS.

3. FINANCE REPORT Natalie Wertz-Finance Manager

Finance Manager Natalie Wertz provided a report on the Friends and Foundation's 2025 Q1 financials.

4. FOUNDATION REPORT Niamh Mercer-Foundation Director

Foundation Director Niamh Mercer shared the Friends and Foundation's 2025 fundraising calendar with the Board, as well as data relating to 2025's Library Giving Day and information about HPLD's relationship to the IMLS funding cuts.

Director Schnirel left the call at 4:59 pm.

5. BOARD COMMENTS

Vice Chair Taylor noted that, while the federal cuts to IMLS are discouraging, she is heartened by the Friends and Foundation's efforts to add value to our local community.

Director Amodio shared her excitement that the completed 2024 audit did not have any recommendations, and added that this demonstrates how well the HPLD Friends and Foundation ship is run.

Secretary/Treasurer Forland agreed that it's excellent to receive no recommendations from the audit, and praised Finance Manager Natalie Wertz and her team for their hard work. She also continues to be excited about the Mobile Workforce Unit grant coming up.

Director Clark spoke about the challenges and uncertainty we are currently facing, but highlighted how much there is to be optimistic about for the Friends and Foundation, particularly opportunities to align strategic planning updates with support for our community.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Director Evans

Second: Director Forland

Vote: Unanimously approved, 4;0

Meeting Adjourned: 5:06 pm