



**Friends of the Library Annual Meeting—January 25, 2025
Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch Library, Mont Belvieu**

Meeting called to order by Friends of the Library President Jean Forrest at 9:02am

Those in attendance: County Librarian Molly McGinty, Branch Heads Aquilia De La Cruz, Yolie Belt, and Cindy Alegria; Board members: Jean Forrest, Elaine Byrd, Chris Jircik, and Kim Hart

Treasurer Report:

Account balances: Nerd Con \$14,984.35, Summer Reading Program \$3224.18, Membership \$3248, and no outstanding balance on the credit card.

Jean motioned to release Nerd Con and SRP money to the county. Membership will be the only account Friends will hold. There was a discussion about separating the accounts. Chris has already spoken with the county treasurer and auditor, and the county will set up accounts for Nerd Con and SRP. Friends will still accept grants. Molly will talk with the county treasurer and auditor.

Jean motioned to hand over Nerd Con and SRP money to the county but grant money will still be accepted through Friends. Chris seconded. No opposed.

Kim motioned to approve the treasurer report. Elaine seconded. No opposed.

October Meeting Minutes:

The October minutes were taken by Molly since Kim was unable to attend that meeting. Molly provided copies. Kim presented the minutes for approval.

Aquilia and Cindy asked about #11 on the minutes:

11. Fundraising ideas – ask branch heads. They aren't going to help us. We have to do the work and they will "support" us. She hates me and the world.

Molly apologized and said it was unprofessional that she had included that.

Chris and Jean asked about #10 on the minutes:

10. Jean could care less.

Molly said that was just what she was feeling at the time.

Fundraising efforts and the need for more volunteers was discussed.

There was concern that some Friends members didn't receive notice of the annual meeting. Molly said she either sent an email or mail out (to those with no email address) to the current 2024 Friends members for notification of the meeting along with the membership form.

Chris will check to see what tax receipts need to be sent out to donors.

Kim asked about #12 on the minutes:

12. Molly – send out a letter to everyone on the membership list reminding them of the January meeting. Book store, SRP, Nerd Con. Present a fundraising idea. They are too old and want younger people.

Elaine suggested Friends would like to recruit younger people with fresh ideas.

Motion for approval by Patti Long. Donna Toups seconded. No opposed.

Items of Business:

A committee was proposed to reevaluate the Friends Constitution and By-Laws. Elaine volunteered to be on the committee.

Aquila suggested Molly send an email to current and past Friends members who had been members in the last three years to promote involvement.

Membership dues can be paid using the paper form or by PayPal. Chris suggested adding a QR code to the membership form.

Review of 2024:

SRP 2024 was successful with over 1000 children signing up, over 100 teens, and over 100 adults.

Nerd Con started as a teen library program and has grown substantially. The extras the county can't pay for is covered by Friends, but there is no return on investment for Friends.

A Friends table at community events was suggested.

Summer Reading Program 2025—Color Our World is the theme. Magician John O'Bryant and the Baytown Wetlands have been booked.

Nerd Con is November 15. Eagle Pointe charged \$900 to rent the facility for Nerd Con in 2024.

Grants Update—The Dollar General literary grant for \$2500 is to purchase Spanish language books. Molly will check to see if we can reapply and will look into other grants.

Cindy asked when the meeting minutes get posted on the library website. Kim emails the minutes to Molly, and Molly posts to the website.

Meeting dates—April 22 in Winnie, July 22 in Anahuac in Tech (Molly's office), Oct 28 in Mont Belvieu, and the Annual meeting in January 2026 in Winnie.

Chris motioned to fund the wishlists for Anahuac \$100, Winnie \$600, and Mont Belvieu \$300. Elaine seconded. No opposed. Due to ease of purchasing, the motion was amended to fund up to \$1000 in wishlists.

Cindy and Yolie returned the money they had left over from the last time Friends dispersed funds to the branches. Chris doesn't have a deposit for that. Molly said she has the money.

Spring programming money of \$200 for each branch is requested to cover January through April. Donna motioned and Laura seconded. No opposed.

Aquila recognized Hunter Wilkins as a valuable volunteer for the Anahuac branch.

There is no update on the Anahuac library.

Election of officers:

Jean resigned as president, and Kim resigned as secretary.

Elaine was voted in as president.

Molly will email the three members who had been previously appointed to represent their library branch to see if they are interested in continuing in their positions.

Molly will "advertise" to fill open board positions.

Jean adjourned the business meeting at 10:54am

Guest Speaker:

Donna Toups gave a presentation on fundraising.