

Meeting Minutes of the Peru Free Library Board of Trustees

February 11, 2026

Attendees: Patrick Andrews, Stacey Bousquet, Rocky Divoll, Theresa Guynup, Diane Haight, Kris Minster, Marque Moffett, Parker O'Mara, Sara Richman, Melissa Whyman.

The meeting was called to order by President Parker at 7:00 pm. The agenda was approved with a motion by Pat and seconded by Rocky. The minutes of the Annual Meeting were approved with a motion by Sarah and seconded by Theresa. The minutes of the January meeting were approved with a motion by Pat and seconded by Sara. There were no public comments as there were no community members in attendance.

Director's Report—Stacey provided statistics for January for the number of patrons, volunteer hours including Steve Collier who clears the sidewalks at the building, attendees at story hour, book group, workshops, Community Learning Series and tutoring/PT/OT sessions.

Stacey created a new work station for the librarians to attend zoom training sessions in the back office which then allowed for another work station for the public in the front room. A "Creation Station" with arts and crafts supplies is available to tweens and older on Friday afternoons. It is also available to others upon request. All the supplies were from the basement and donations to the Library. Stacey has set up a "Reading Buddy" program for children to read to stuffed animals to improve the child's reading skills.

A grant application has been submitted to Stewart's Holiday Match for funds to support the Library summer reading program for children. Stacey also attended a summer reading webinar, "Unearth New Stories", about dinosaurs.

Our insurance agent will be meeting with Stacey about the policy on the Library building and its cost. He will be pursuing costs of premiums with other companies.

The Library Annual Report which is usually done in February has been postponed due to the closure of the software company that had been utilized previously. There has been no date set yet for when a new software company will be retained and forms will be provided.

Upcoming programs at the Library include:

- Saranac School Library Club tour of our Library as well as the Peru Middle/High School libraries.
- Cornell Cooperative Extension and Northern Orchards personnel presentation on "Apples" as part of the Community Learning Series.
- Programs for children every day during the February school break.
- Karen Land who has competed in the Iditarod race will present "Mush" about sled dog racing. She will bring a sled and one of her dogs, and the presentation will be at the St. Augustine Parish Center.

President's Report—Parker asked that this item be removed from the agenda since he usually adds any items he wants to discuss as New Business. There was no objection to the change.

Treasurer's Report—The balances for the accounts are checking--\$7,299.20, money market--\$29,480.21 and CD--\$26,654.96. The total for all accounts are \$63,434.37. The first payment of the year from the Town of Peru was received on February 11, 2026.

The TD Bank Affinity Program check for \$1240 was received recently, while the amount budgeted was actually \$3500. Stacey talked to our local bank about the lower amount that was received. Since this Affinity Program is based on a percentage of bank patrons who choose the Library as their choice for the program, the decrease in the amount is due to fewer people opening new accounts and lower dollar amounts in their accounts as well as fewer people choosing the Library for their donation. It was suggested that the Library publicize to the community that anyone who has an account with the bank can identify their choice for the Affinity Program to be the Library.

Sara provided information about rates for the CD at TD Bank as follows:

1 year—2.7% 91 days—3.3% 6 months—3.04% 9 months—2.85%.

Our current CD is due on February 15th with a 7 day window to make any changes. It was agreed that Sara will check with other local banks about rates for different time periods. If she can find a better rate for 6 months, 9 months or one year at another bank, she will choose the best rate. If the rate at TD Bank is better, she will renew the CD for 6 months.

The credit card that Sara applied for at TD Bank to be used by the Library has been cancelled. Stacey applied for a credit card through "Charity Charge" affiliated with Commerce Bank. This is a nonprofit credit card utilizing the information of the Library when applying. Stacey will use this card for ordering books and other online purchases.

Building and Maintenance Report—Rocky met with Stacey to discuss long range plans for the physical building and grounds of the Library. In the coming months Rocky plans to restore the lamp posts and shutters outside the building. He will also prune trees and bushes around the building.

Old Business—No Report.

New Business—Parker presented the Evaluation of the Director in terms of the Director and Board setting goals at the beginning of a calendar year. Then at the end of the year, there will be a discussion about achievement of the goals.

Goals that were discussed for 2026:

1. Preparation of and sending out a survey to the Peru community about their perception of roles involving the Library currently and in the future.
2. Since the Library is mainly funded by the Town of Peru, it was suggested that Board members could attend the Board meetings on a monthly or quarterly basis to share programs and activities at the Library.

3. Our community responds very well to the diversity of programs that have been held at the Library during the past year. To continue that interest, there needs to be outreach with local leaders, local housing areas such as Apple Valley and other community groups to determine what types of programming would be of interest to them. The next step would be to determine actual programs available, especially anything free or low cost.
4. To assist with the goal of having more programs available, a fund raising goal could be developed to increase the options for new programs.

Committee Reports—

Policies—No Report.

Fund Raising Committee—The committee members have researched the cost of printing a Peru Free Library 2027 calendar with several companies. US Print Press is their choice with the printing cost determined by the number of calendars ordered which will be 100. This would require about \$650 to have the printing done which could be taken from the Money Market account. In May, the plan is to ask members of the community for photographs of the life and culture of the Town of Peru that they would donate for the calendar. Once the selection of photos was made and the calendars were printed, the calendars would be sold starting in August at the Peru Town Market, Apple Fest and other locations. The cost of the calendar would be \$20.

Long Range Committee—The committee will be meeting with Rocky to discuss a 5 year maintenance plan and any new projects for the building. Another issue to be considered for a long range plan is utilization of surplus funds beyond the budgeted amounts that will then show responsible use for all the community contributions. As a part of this, the Library needs to have a certain amount of money protected for unplanned expenses, usually considered to be 50% of the guaranteed income. Purchases of recommended equipment that is not budgeted would be another optimal use of surplus funds.

Budget Committee—No Report.

The dates for the next meetings are March 11th and April 8th.

A motion was made by Pat and seconded by Marque to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm.