

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Upper Skagit Library
and the Upper Skagit Library Foundation
February 18, 2015, 7:00-9:00 p.m., at the Concrete Theater**

Before the meeting commenced, refreshments were provided for all the attendees by Em Beals and her staff from 5b's Bakery, while fun and inspiring images and quotes about libraries were displayed on the movie screen.

Announcements

Barb Trask, current President of the Friends of the Upper Skagit Library welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and announced that Becky Schmidt would take notes.

Barb noted the great turnout of those who love books and libraries in the audience and thanked everyone for their support and for coming to the meeting. Almost 100 people attended the meeting, including 57 paid-up members.

Barb began by highlighting the many milestones we are celebrating. The attendees responded to many of the announcements with loud applause and much tooting of the party horns they had received upon arrival.

1. Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Upper Skagit Library. The library provides books, DVDs, magazines, educational & cultural programs; a place to read, work, learn and socialize; computer and internet access for students and community, IT help, only free public WiFi access in eastern half of Skagit County which is used day and night; a place where parents with young children come for story time; a place to do fun, creative projects together.
2. Celebrating significant increase in library use from 2013 to 2014
 - Number of people with Upper Skagit Library cards up 37%
 - Program attendees jumped 89%
 - 23% more hours logged on library computers in 2014
 - Average number of items out in circulation per month up 27%
 - Online collection of e-books and audio-books is taking off
3. Celebrating and giving enormous credit to our vibrant library director, Brooke Pederson, and her knowledgeable, friendly staff, Nancy, Slav, and Cora, for the library's popularity. They make it a safe, welcoming environment where people can go to get answers to all sorts of questions.
4. Celebrating the recent unanimous decision by Concrete's town council to put annexation into the Upper Skagit Library district on the November 2015 ballot. Concrete is not now part of the library district, so town residents do not have the same library privileges enjoyed by district residents. Annexation would erase this inequity and enable the town to support the library through property tax. Barb thanked Brooke, Mayor

Jason Miller and Dave Pfeiffer of the town council for shepherding this issue forward to the voters. Barb noted that there would be a handout to pick up as members of the audience leave to help explain benefits of the annexation to voters.

5. Celebrating how much our library offers in a very small--1600 square foot --space. Patrons love the library, but when surveyed said they would like more space: to read and work inside and out; for staff to work and answer visitor's questions privately; for teens to gather; for children to play and learn without disturbing older visitors; for more computers to avoid a waiting line; and, for collaborative projects, meetings, education, tutoring, and cultural programs. Moreover, the current space was not designed as a library—and portions of the floor cannot support heavy book shelves. Also, the county would like to use the library space to expand its services for area residents.
6. Celebrating the fact that the founding library trustees recognized the need for better space even before the library opened. Forward-thinking trustees began saving for a new library over 10 years ago, establishing a special “capital projects” fund, which has grown steadily over the years. The even greater news is that the current board reviewed the projected revenue and operating expenses and earmarked \$600,000 to build and equip the new library facility. Barb then asked the past and current Trustees and Directors to please stand up and be recognized.
7. Celebrating the recent pledge by Glacier Northwest to donate land in a prime location in Concrete as the site for a new library. The site is at the NW corner of Highway 20 and Superior, and will allow ample space for the building, parking, and outdoor activity areas. It is accessible by foot, bike, car or bus.
8. Celebrating that now, with land and a good share of needed funds in hand, a small task force is coordinating the effort to engage architects and other professionals to help plan, design, and estimate costs. This task force includes Brooke Pederson—and representatives of the library's board and this organization and is being driven by Greta Movassaghi. Greta has enormous experience and knowledge in managing complex public projects in her previous work with the U. S. Forest Service. Barb also thanked Greta for helping to put together fun, inspirational slides shown at the beginning of the presentation.

Vision for the New Library

Barb introduced Brooke Pederson, Director of the Upper Skagit Library, who spoke of her vision for the proposed new library. Brooke envisions: a safe place where kids can come after school, hang out, get help with homework, and be

inspired; a space that allows all to feel comfortable and takes advantage of this beautiful place where we live (with Sauk Mountain on the horizon) so that creativity might thrive; a place that provides meeting space, both inside and outside, for community programs; a venue for writers and artists; and, a place that inspires civic pride. She envisions the library serving as a gateway to information and our community.

Award Presentations

Awards were presented to several people who helped bring the library to this point.

- Nancy Sparkowich, friendly face of the library for 10 years
- Nancy and Steve Johnson, extraordinary volunteers who have made endless contributions in so many different ways (installing shelves to help open the library, handling finances and website before there were any paid staff, book sale champions, etc.)
- Brooke Pederson, celebrating her first-year anniversary as our library director was given a tote bag with the quote “A trained librarian is a powerful search engine, with a heart” plus a book to share with kids at story time.
- Noting that tonight we would be taking key steps to transform the Friends of the Upper Skagit Library into a Foundation to better position ourselves to raise funds for the new library, Barb thanked the Friends for being instrumental in getting the vote passed to create the library district in 2001, and for enhancing the library’s services through their support of programs, equipment, scholarships and raising public awareness. She recognized Robin Wood, who founded the Friends and served four years as President, Secretary and Treasurer. Robin was not present, but a small gift will be presented to her. Barb then asked all the other past Friends to stand, and each was given an autographed copy of Nancy Pearl’s first book, Book Lust, as a token of appreciation.

Treasury and Membership Report

Barb gave the Treasurer’s report, using the information from Sue Behey’s records—Sue stepped down as Treasurer of FOUSL in January after closing the books on fiscal year 2014. The year ended with a balance of \$7,728 with \$1,135 spent mostly in direct support of the library and \$3,617 in revenue—a combination of donations, dues, and book sales. Barb thanked some of the many people who helped make this happen: John Boggs who built shelving for donated

books, Bill Pfeiffer who set up a new website, and Dan Beheytt who transported truckloads of books to sell in Seattle.

There are currently 78 current members of Friends, up from 48 last February. And in just the first six weeks of 2015, the Friends have already received more in donations and dues than was raised in all of 2014.

Approval of Minutes

Barb then referred to the minutes of the 2014 FOUSL Annual Meeting, prepared by then-secretary Elaine Gibson and sent to members in advance. She asked if there were any corrections to the minutes.

Betty Seguin stood up and noted the corrections to the Minutes.

- a) Two typo's: Tom Gibson's name in attendee list, and the word "shirt" in last paragraph should be "shut."
- b) In the "Nominating Committee report "No open nominations were taken from the floor" should actually say "No additional nominations were made from the floor"
- c) In the membership secretary's report, the sentence "gained ten new members, but lost some", should end with the added phrase "with 48 paid-up members as of January 2014."
- d) And, for the treasurer's report, a sentence should be added stating "The beginning and ending balances for Fiscal Year 2013 were \$5239.49 and \$5246.18, respectively."

Hearing no objections, Barb stated that the minutes would be corrected as noted. Hearing no further corrections, Barb stated that the 2014 Annual Meeting minutes stand approved as corrected.

Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation

Barb explained that a lot of effort had gone into revising the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation to set the organization on a more solid footing for a future that entails a broader range of fundraising activities. Both the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation have been reviewed and approved by both the outgoing board and candidates for the incoming board and sent to Friends members two weeks in advance. The revisions: change organization's name to signal its expanded scope and potential impact; allow for larger board of community supporters than current four; bring documents up to current standards of other well-functioning non-profits; and, include verbiage required by IRS.

Barb entertained a motion to approve and adopt the Bylaws as presented. Nicola Murray-Pearson moved to approve the Bylaws as presented, and John Boggs seconded the motion. A vote was taken by a show of hands and the motion passed unanimously.

Then, Barb entertained a motion to approve and adopt the Articles of Incorporation as presented. Sacha Buller moved to approve the Articles of Incorporation as presented, and Nancy Johnson seconded the motion. A show of hands was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Election of New Board of Directors

Barb announced that many community members had volunteered to serve on the Foundation's new board, and introduced Sacha Buller to explain why she did.

Sacha said she believes in the value of public libraries for our community and its children. She still remembers her Sno-Isle Library card number from her childhood, and her fascination with the author, Pearl S. Buck. As a resident of Rockport, along with her husband and two small daughters, she feels committed to raising their girls in this community because of their deep family roots here and the freedom to run in the woods. At the same time, she and her husband want their girls to have opportunities within the community to be exposed to the wider world of ideas and information, and wants there to be a vibrant public library here for them to learn, create and explore their interests.

Barb introduced Betty Seguin and Lou Hillman, as this year's nominating committee for the Upper Skagit Library Foundation. They came forward to read off the roster of candidates in alphabetical order: Sacha Buller, Sheena Daniels, Sharon Dillon, Sherry Hornbeck, Nancy Johnson, Carrie Newby, Kathy Pfeiffer, Kevik Rensink, Becky Schmidt, Valerie Stafford, Rob Thomas, and Barb Trask. After reading the list, they entertained a motion to elect this roster of twelve individuals to the Foundation's Board, each for a three-year term. Margaret Studer moved to elect this roster of twelve individuals to the Foundation's Board, and Bill Pfeiffer seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Barb thanked the nominating committee and congratulated the new Board.

Business of Upper Skagit Library Foundation

Barb then called a short meeting of the Upper Skagit Library Foundation's new Board of Directors. She explained that the prospective new board members met in January to discuss who was well-suited and willing to fill the officer positions. She said that the group discussed and agreed upon two motions. Becky Schmidt then came to the podium to read both motions:

Motion #1

- "That the Board of Officers be:
Barb Trask, President
Val Stafford, Vice President
Becky Schmidt, Secretary, and

Kathy Pfeiffer, Treasurer.”

Barb entertained a motion from the newly elected board to this effect. Sharon Dillon moved that it be so, and Kevik Rensink seconded the motion. Barb called for voice vote of the Board of Directors and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion #2

- “That the Board hold one regular meeting annually during the first quarter of the year, with additional special meetings called as needed;
- the number of directors be twelve;
- the four Officers and one at-large Director, Rob Thomas, constitute the Executive Committee of the Board;
- the Foundation’s accounts for fiscal year 2014 be audited by both the President and incoming Treasurer;
- the 2015 budget be accepted as presented; and
- the Letter of Agreement between the Foundation and the Library’s Board of Trustees be approved as presented and submitted to the Library Trustees for their concurrence.”

Barb entertained a motion incorporating all six stipulations above. Sacha Buller moved that it be so, and Sharon Dillon seconded the motion. Barb called for a voice vote by the Board of Directors and the motion passed unanimously.

Barb then announced that the Friends of the Upper Skagit Library is now officially transformed into the Upper Skagit Library Foundation. That announcement met with yet another round of applause and horn tooting.

Barb explained that the next phase will consist of submitting grants, seeking corporate sponsorships, asking private individuals and family foundations to make large donations and initiating fund raising events in the community later in the spring and summer. To help in that regard, she invited people to become a member of the Foundation, and pointed them to donation boxes into which they could deposit donations or submit membership applications and dues. Also, as people leave, she said they would be given green donation/pledge forms and asked that everyone spread the word. She mentioned that one of Brooke’s family friends had made a substantial donation in Brooke’s honor. She said she hoped this wonderful gesture might be emulated by others.

Barb then introduced Em Beals and Mayor Jason Miller, who read the poem, “I Need a Book, I Really Do!” As they enthusiastically read their parts, the poem was greeted with lots of laughter from the audience. When finished, Jason Miller asked for a round of applause for Dave Pfeiffer, from the Town Council, whose tireless work as a liaison between the Council and the Library helped get the library annexation proposal on the November ballot.

Guest Speaker, Nancy Pearl

Barb explained that tonight's occasion, with all our milestones reached, was deserving of a special guest speaker. She was thrilled that Nancy Pearl, famed librarian featured on NPR and author, accepted our invitation to come to Concrete and help us celebrate. Barb listed Nancy's many accomplishments and awards, as well as her appearances all over the world to speak about the pleasures of reading. Barb introduced Nancy and thanked her for coming.

Nancy began by noting that Brooke Pederson was one of her students and said how pleased she was to see her shine in her position as Director of the Upper Skagit Library. She said that when she got Barb's letter of invitation, her husband, Joe, said "you have to go."

Nancy entertained the gathering with a talk entitled "The Pleasures and Perils of Reading."

She explained that she spent a great part of her childhood in the local library in her Detroit neighborhood. She realized at a young age that her home was not safe. Since she loved to read, she rode her bike to the library with a packed lunch and spent every Saturday there. The library provided a safe haven for her, and it was a place where she was exposed to a bigger world than she knew, as well as different ways to live and be. In the beginning, she was only interested in books about horses, but the caring librarian there took Nancy under her wing and gradually introduced her to classics.

At a young age, Nancy knew that she wanted to be a children's librarian so that she could help other children unwrap the gifts of the world through books. When she finished her degree at the University of Michigan, she went back to work in her local Detroit branch library where she grew up.

She divulged that she is not comfortable with small talk and related a humorous story about a library gathering in 2003 where she was seated at a table with three local Seattle civic luminaries. When she asked each of her table mates what book they were reading, they unfortunately all answered with the same title, leaving her stumped for something else to say. When she shared that she dreamed frequently about being in her childhood library, the man across from her said "Oh my God, Nancy, get a life!" She then told the gathering at that small table that books allow you to go anywhere, have any life, and learn about the wider world out there. She reiterated that books have given her enormous pleasure.

Then she talked about the perils of reading. She said she always likes to say that there's something in her library to offend everyone. Books expose you to all sides of an issue. Among the perils of a life of reading is learning your vocabulary through reading—and not learning to pronounce words correctly. She also talked about the difference of reading via an e-book, where you can get the meaning of a word by simply sticking your finger on the screen and the

dictionary pops up versus reading a real book. With a real book, you need to go get the dictionary to look up the meaning of a word you don't know. She told funny anecdotes about being too lazy, and misconstruing the meaning of a word from its context.

The biggest peril, however, is that if you spend a big part of your life reading, you may not be able to discern whether the memories you recall are your own or those from a book. Nancy gave a humorous example of describing her junior prom dress to her daughter. However, her daughter remembered that her mother's description came directly from the pages of a book called Double Date, and they both had a good laugh.

Finally, however, she said the pleasures of reading far outweigh the perils. She ended by saying that it was her hope to pass on the love of reading to everyone

Barb adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m after thanking numerous volunteers who had helped with tonight's meeting. Members of the audience were invited down to the front of the theater to meet and converse with Nancy Pearl and each other, while enjoying the refreshments.

**LIST OF ATTENDEES – UPPER SKAGIT LIBRARY FOUNDATION MEETING
CONCRETE THEATER, FEBRUARY 18, 2015, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

**Paid-up Members as of
2/18/2015**

Keith Alesse
Dottie Anthony
Carol Barnett
Erma Baude
Em Beals
Bowen Beals
Sue Beheynt
Gail Boggs
John Boggs
Sacha Buller
Annie Bussiere
Chuck Bussiere
Michelle Coda
Cheri Cook-Blodgett
Kevin Crozier
Sharon Dillon
Christie Fairchild
Ingeborg Hightower
Lance Hightower
Lou Hillman
Sherry Hornbeck
Nancy Johnson
Steve Johnson
Sandra Jones
Saara Kuure
Mary Pat Larsen
Kathy Manzoor
Verna McClure
Carol McCormick
Anita McFarland
Tara McGown
Jason Miller (H)
Ellen Moons
Michael Moons
Nicola Murray-Pearson
Stephan Murray
Carrie Newby
Brooke Pederson (H)
Bill Pfeifer
Kathy Pfeiffer

Jan Raschko
Kevik Rensink
Becky Schmidt
Anne Schwartz (Brondi)
Betty Seguin
Nancy Sparkowich
Val Stafford
Margaret Studer
Leatha Sullivan
Bill Sullivan
Laurie Thomas
Rob Thomas
Barb Trask
Ger van den Engh
Rowena Watson
Dianna Wood
Bill Wood

Others:

Dave Anthony
Jackie Beamer
Julie Blazek
Mike Brondi
Helen Brown
Merlene Buller
Jennifer Collins
Dalton Cook-Blodgett
Joni Gaffield
Barbara Hawkings
Michael Hayes
Monica Hazelet
Jim Hillman
Milissa Macomber
Mike Macomber
Lorissa Macomber
Colton Macomber
Lyle McClure
Erin McCormick
Marlee Mountain
Nancy Pearl (guest speaker)
Joe Pearl
Bruce Pederson
Donna Rae Pederson
Debra Peterson
Sally Pfeifer
Dave Pfeiffer
Alana Pizzutto
Marta Rensink
Hannah Rensink
Jonas Rensink
Aliese Rensink
Karen Smith
Eve Syapin
Cora Thomas
Celeste Weaver
Roger Weaver
Russ Weiser
Fred West

NEW FOUNDATION BOARD

Present: Sacha Buller, Sharon Dillon, Sherry Hornbeck, Nancy Johnson, Carrie Newby, Kathy Pfeiffer, Kevik Rensink, Becky Schmidt, Val Stafford, Rob Thomas, Barb Trask
Absent: Sheena Daniels