

Friends of Twin Lakes

Member Meeting Minutes

Date: August 1, 2026

Time: 10:02-11:30AM MT

Location: Schoolhouse and Zoom

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM.

2. Attendance

Board Members Present:

Kevin Kirsner, President

Colleen Schweigert, Vice President and Treasurer

Malia French Floyd, Communications & Outreach Officer

Daryl Manning (Zoom), At Large

Anne Bond, Heritage Officer

Sarah Hughes, Secretary

Members Present: There were 28 members present in the schoolhouse and 4 online.

3. Approval of Previous President as Adviser

Motion: Larry Marcum moved to approve Kelly Sweeney, previous President, as an adviser to the board, as referenced in the by-laws. Jon Floyd seconded. The motion was approved.

4. Membership

Kevin Kirsner provided an update on the FOTL membership. At the time of the meeting, FOTL had 93 Members comprised of 79 voting & 14 non-voting members. The FOTL also has 465 email address opt-ins. Kevin referenced a board initiative for the member growth strategy to include word of mouth, website, events and including information in email newsletter.

5. Approve minutes from last FOTL member meeting on June 6, 2026

Motion: Dee Gross moved to approve the minutes. Susie Ramsdell seconded. The minutes were approved.

6. 2026 Operating Budget

Colleen Schweigert provided an overview of the 2026 Operating Budget and provided a description of what was in each account/fund.

General Fund: \$24,570.22

Heritage: \$69,335.18

Fire Station: \$30,283.39

Dexter House: \$144.97

Total: \$124,333.76

Pueblo Bank & Trust: \$24,570.22

Colorado Community Bank: \$41,628.07
TBK Bank: \$58,135.47
Total: \$124,33.76

Following the treasurer's report, there was a question about the fire station budget, which resulted in a review of the purchased equipment for use in Twin Lakes and southern Lake County. Additional ideas from the members included a review of all the emergency preparedness equipment in the village area (AED, Emergency Supply kits, portable five gallon spot fire, etc.) and tutorials on how to utilize them properly, along with developing a plan should there be a fire in the Village and how to stabilize it until emergency responders/firefighters are able to respond.

7. Project Updates

- **The Clarion Hotel** – Kelly Sweeney provided an update on the Clarion Hotel efforts, including sistering of rafters, drip line, roofing support with a planned completion in August. The materials were funded from the FOTL fund. Once stabilized, and the approval from the USFS is given, the plywood will be removed with only one pane of glass that needs repair. Future planned improvements may include historic interpretation signs and new roof.
 - A member inquired if there were any plans to revamp the interior of the building? Kelly responded it will be safe for interior access, but they plan to arrange historic furniture in certain rooms to allow for viewing.
- **Red Rooster (Visitor Center)**– Kelly Sweeney provided an update about the roof for the Red Rooster. Currently awaiting USFS engineering approval and kickoff. Roofing materials have been selected. FOTL board will put a request for proposals with roofers that will include the requirement to partake in the roofing company's free online training; Once installed, the roof will be hail, fire and hurricane wind rated. If the timing of the approval occurs in September, the project may be able to be tackled in early Winter, otherwise will await spring.
- **Interlaken** – Anne Bond provided an update on the damage to the Interlaken by trees through photos. Anne confirmed signage is up to the public warning of the hazard. The FOTL board noted that the FOTL will likely be involved in the project and should expect future discussion on the partnership and involvement could look like for the future for the agreement.
- **Grants** – Sarah Hughes briefly reviewed an upcoming grant from the National Forest Foundation and the likely winter application timeframe for 2027 application period. A member referenced an encounter with the Upper Arkansas Coalition to possibly consider as new groups/stakeholder with whom to engage. Sarah also referenced a member brought forward a grant idea from the Federal Highway Administration, and encouraged members with possible funding ideas or interest in supporting to please contact the friendsoftwinlakes@gmail.com.
- **Willow Fire Overview** – Daryl Manning reviewed the status of the Willow Fire, noting that it has diminished considerably. At the time, evacuation zones had been all reduced to pre-evacuation or removed, though the fire would likely not fully be distinguished out until first snowfall. Air quality much improved. Daryl and members of the FOTL shared their appreciation for the first responders. Daryl and the members also noted how the fire had severely impacted the tourism and outdoor recreation economy for the area, as Twin Lakes small businesses have experienced reduced participation.

8. Fire Watch Volunteers Needed

Kevin Kirsner reviewed for Matt Hakala, a FOTL member's idea for a volunteer fire watch with the objective of monitoring popular areas (Interlaken trailhead and Mount Elbert Forebay) for illegal fire rings, smoldering fires, logging the observations and reporting concerns to U.S. Forest Service. Volunteers are not expected to interact with the public. If interested, please contact Matt Hakala at wmhakala@gmail.com.

9. Communications & Outreach

Malia French Floyd reviewed several projects within FOTL's communications and outreach efforts:

- Newsletter goals: Malia reviewed FOTL newsletter metrics, noting that as of June 17th we had sent 8 emails/newsletters with half focused on the Willow Fire. Those emails experienced around or above a 40-50% open rate. Her goal is to ensure the newsletters remain timely and relevant.
 - Historic Stories: Please share your historical information/stories with friendsoftwinlakes@gmail.com.
 - Timing: two newsletter a month during peak summer season with 1 newsletter a month during non-peak.
- Website goals: Increase online engagement; grow membership, donations and event/volunteer participation with planned timeline for improvements from October 2026-March 2027.
- Member Survey: FOTL Board is seeking your feedback. Please take it and share how we've been doing; what projects are important to you; when is the best time to have events and volunteer interest. The FOTL Board will provide results in future.

10. Calendar of Events:

The Board reviewed the upcoming calendar of events, noting the Friends of the Twin Lakes Annual Picnic on 8/30. Please bring a side dish and indicate your interest if you'd like to volunteer.

11. Event Volunteers Needed

Boom Days Parade Float: Kurt Schweigert reviewed his plans for the parade, noting the planned giveaways of frozen popsicles and 200 bags of native flower seeds from the Lake County Conservation District.

Dexter Cabin Annual Clean Up: Kelly Sweeney reviewed the upcoming Dexter Cabin Annual Clean Up on 8/13. Volunteers were to meet at 8:40am at the boat ramp or at Dexter cabin at 9amMT. They planned to return at 12:30pmMT with lunch in the village. Bring gloves, protective clothing, sunscreen and extra mops.

Leadville Trail 100 Run: Kelly Sweeny and Malia French Floyed shared that with the revised course, there would be a greater impact in Twin Lakes with more volunteers requested. Kelly shared she will have a Zoom/in-person to review the protocols and

make sure it's a safe event. Malia shared FOTL would create a special edition of the newsletter focused on what to expect in the Village.

Visitor Center: FOTL shared a massive thank you to Colleen with 10 years of service as the Volunteer Coordinator. Colleen will finish out the 2026 season, but we will be looking for a new volunteer coordinator for 2027. Please reach out if interested.

12. FOTL Donation

Colleen Schweigert shared that FOTL members Paul and Maryann Wiggs crafted a book called Impermanence in honor of their son Cody Wiggs. The family donated books to Gallery and all proceeds of the book sale will go to FOTL.

13. Open Forum

- A member asked if it was still helpful to have a Pan Arks based member maintain a walkie talkie should any communications issues happen in the village. The board will follow-up with the member and Sheriff Heath Speckman.
- A member shared their appreciation about the new format about the newsletter, and their appreciation for the survey. They encouraged other members to please respond to the survey.
- A member noted the difference between the dues paying member compared to the mailing list, and noted FOTL should try to convert more of the newsletter subscribers to due paying members.
- A member had a question if FOTL or the Visitor's Center had recommended on where you can camp for dispersed camping or if there a map.

Motion to adjourn proposed by Colleen Schweigert 11:30am. Seconded by Dee Gross. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. MT.