

# Rotary Club of Windsor

## Rotary Project: Little Free Libraries

It seems fair to say that the digital age is making it more difficult for children to make the written word an integral part of their formative years. The digital device has become the default source of entertainment. It appears to be more difficult for kids to find those empty pockets of time to be able to dive headlong into a book. As a community, anything that we can do to support reading and the love of books for our younger generation should be encouraged.

In this light the Rotary Club of Windsor will build or have built at least twelve Little Free Libraries in our community.

In 2010 Tod H. Bol, founder of Free Little Libraries, wanted to “plant seeds of literacy” in his town so he gave away thirty Free Little Libraries. Bit by bit more libraries began to sprout and the movement started to grow. Today, there are more than 75,000 Little Free Libraries around the world, in all fifty states and eighty-five countries sharing tens of millions of books each year.



It is not unusual for Free Little Libraries to be built or purchased by individuals and placed on their property. Reading material usually ranges from children to adult books. Our Rotary Club plans to do things a little differently. We want to focus on the pre-school and elementary school reader. We will place the Little Free Libraries near parks, playgrounds and school bus stops. We will make sure they are stocked with books appropriate for the young reader.

This project appears to be a perfect fit considering Rotary's core values and vision statement.

#### Project Specifics:

The structures will be constructed by individuals within or outside the club. We will insist on high quality and that the structures will withstand weather typical of northern Colorado.

#### Estimated Costs

Individual structure:	\$300
Support post	\$75
Books	\$100
Registration	\$40
Total	\$515

$$\times 12 = \$6180$$

A budget of \$6200 seems to be reasonable for this project. Donations may or may not play a significant role. Any extra funds will be used to build additional Free Little Libraries.

In order to get the job done we will need several committees. These committees will have to work independently and be responsible for their duties in a timely fashion. Obviously, this is not a weekend project. This project is ongoing and will take several months to implement properly. It will require updating, probably monthly, with the whole club. This is a good thing, as it will allow us to see how working together on a multifaceted project brings our club together.

### **Builders:**

Approximately four of our members will be responsible for getting the structures built. Setting standards for size, weather proofing, appearance etc. Enlisting potential builders, controlling costs.

### **Money to pay for the project:**

First, we need to know how much the club wants to allocate for the project. I would suggest that we at least pay for the posts (\$75) and registration (\$40) That's  $\$115 \times 12 = \$1380$ . We will need two or three Rotarians to work on grants, business and individual sponsors, etc.

### **Promotion:**

A committee to advertise and promote the project through various media.

### **Sites:**

A committee to pin down suitable sites for the Little Free Libraries. Clear with property owners. Make sure digging a hole won't disrupt anything.

### **Stewards:**

Find people who will maintain the Free Little Libraries. (Stewards)

**Registration:**

Make sure the Little Free Libraries are properly registered with the national organization.

I'm sure there are other areas that will need attention. The committees outlined above are a good start.

I have been thinking about the project for several months and would be willing to take a leadership role and provide oversight. I expect the Board to not only work but monitor the project and make recommendations and or changes as necessary.

Ronald D. Clark