

**Friends of the Arlington Public Library (FOAL)**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**February 12, 2024**

**Board Members:**

*Present:* Claire Christian, Laura Porter, Jane Posner, Kate Summers, Brittany Robertson, Natalia Lanteigne, Todd Ludeke, Kelly Fado, Rob Hizon

*Absent:* Jamie Krovontka, Judy Kindell

**Others Present:**

Library: Diane Kresh and Peter Petruski

Other: Merri Horn, Marty Pippins, Amy Miller

**Proceedings:**

- Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President, Claire Christian.
- Last month's meeting minutes were amended and approved.

**Library update:**

**Diane update:**

- Kudos to FOAL for the 101st Anniversary of Cherrydale Library event and the warm and welcoming Lifetime Members event which reaffirmed the relationship between the library and FOAL.
- Last minute changes to MOU seemed fine but she will confirm with Julia.
  - Friends and the Library agree on an annual budget
  - Claire is aiming to wrap up the MOU this week.
  - Natalia will be speaking to the community investments about the money
  - Kate provided details on requests from the library vs. actual financials over the course of the last several years, plus the impact of COVID.
- Would like to have a special event with Jesmyn Ward in May. Ralph Eubanks will conduct the interview.
- The library is beginning to throw around ideas around hosting fantasy authors.
- Kate shared her discussion with Maureen Coffey at the Cherrydale event. Enthusiasm from Maureen Coffey about engaging young adults in activities.

**Peter update:**

- The programming team is requesting free book coupons as a prize for summer reading. This would be the same as last year: <https://library.arlingtonva.us/for-readers/summer-reading/prizes/>. FOAL agrees to give away one free book coupon for everyone who completes the Summer Reading program. Motion by Kate to approve. The motion was passed.
- At Claire's request, Peter reached out to Loudoun, Fairfax, Alexandria, and Prince William's libraries to get benchmarking data for the scope of their programming efforts.
- Upcoming Arlington Reads events are listed below. Amy to put together signup sheet for FOAL board members to table at each event. Events are:

- Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr.: 3/7/2024 (Thursday)
  - Anna Malaika Tubbs: 3/28/24 (Thursday)
  - Dr. Arline T. Geronimus: 4/3/24 (Wednesday)
  - Jesmyn Ward: 5/14/24 (Tuesday)
  - George M. Johnson: 6/13/24 (Thursday)
- The library is exploring options for hosting a pre-Arlington Reads event for Jesmyn Ward. This would be a good opportunity to build engagement for Friends' members.
    - Library Administration would like to suggest to the Friends board that they hold a raffle for members to attend an event with the author - something like "join the Friends for the first time or renew a membership to be entered" or "make a donation during April to be entered." This could also be a good tie-in for National Library Week in April.
    - Kate suggested using Eventbrite and to make the event affordable – in the \$25-\$30 range. Include light fare and consider using Thai Treasure where we held the poet laureate event.
    - The actual author event will still be free to all.
  - Pete presented a mock-up of what a potential book sale banner would look like, as designed by the library marketing team. Costs are estimated at \$200-\$400, and the intention is that the banner would be evergreen for both sales during the year.
    - Feedback from FOAL: would like the FOAL logo to be bigger and not white lettering. Change out photography. Pete to take revisions back to Henrik.
    - Jane mentioned that she will set up the backdrop that we had created for the fall 2023 book sale at the March 7<sup>th</sup> author event.
  - The library's donation support team, led by Rebecca Case, would like to request a standing quarterly meeting to discuss merchandise and apparel. As we broaden our efforts with hoodies and shirts, we are entering a more sophisticated retail environment that would benefit from a regular meeting schedule and coordination. Amy will be point of contact for this meeting.

The library's budget work session is scheduled for 4/2/24. The public budget hearing will be that evening at 7 PM. Budget adoption is scheduled for 4/20/24. More information including speaker sign up for the public hearing can be found at: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Budget-Finance/FY-2025-County-Board-Work-Sessions>

### **President's report:**

- Claire, Brittany, and Kate attended the Coalition for Empowerment and Opportunity (CEO) event on February 5, 2024, which FOAL sponsored.
- Claire discussed a potential partnership with the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center as supporting literacy is part of our mission at FOAL. There is currently no library and kids there are asking for books. They would like books

on civic and ethical literacy, financial literacy, health and wellness, career and fun books.

- Can the librarians assist with book lists?
- Does the library get a book discount where we could order through the library? Pete will do some research and get back to us in March.
- We are looking for an approximate 120 books.
- Kate motioned to fund the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center library for up to \$5,000. Motion passed.
- Claire and the board executive team (Jane Posner, Natalia Langteigne and Laura Porter) met with Susan Cunningham, who was very engaged, and Matt de Ferranti. Top points discussed: how FOAL funds all programming at the library, challenges faced in raising money and the importance of libraries in our community.
- Claire also had a call with the Montgomery County Friends to find out how their finances work. Suggested the American Library Association (ALA) might be a good place to join for people who run Friends groups.

#### **Vice President's report:**

Jane reported that she attended the Arlington 2050 event, which was primarily a listening event, but started some relationships to help down the road. Postcards from the 2050 group are at all library branches to solicit feedback, as well as advocate for the library.

#### **Cherrydale Library representative report:**

Kate reported that the 101<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Cherrydale library event went very well. A success with nearly 200 people in attendance. The event did go a little over budget.

#### **Membership and donations report:**

Amy reported:

- We had 26 donations totaling \$12,419.48
- We had 25 new/renewals totaling \$1,325.00
- We have a total of 1,008 FOAL members (282 lifetime members)
- We are now collecting data on FOAL members and their home branch. When people renew or sign up, they can choose their home branch.
- There will be two pick-up events for Lifetime Members to pick up their membership card + thank you gift. The first event is on Saturday, March 16th, from 1 to 2:30pm at Shirlington. The second is tentatively scheduled (I'm waiting on branch confirmation) for Saturday, April 6th at 10:30 am at Aurora Hills. We have ~120 LM who we have contact information for to give out their items.
  
- We have a restock of maroon and charcoal heather hoodies, plus the blue and new "mauve" t-shirt available in sizes from small to 2XL. These will be at the library starting later this week.
- The application to be listed in the non-profit guide put out by the Arlington Community Foundation has been completed.

**Book sale report:**

- Marty discussed wanting to nail down dates for the Fall 2024 book sale.
- Fall book sale dates: October 3 to 7, 2024
- No decision reached on what to do with the overflow of children's books

**Glencarlyn Library representative report:**

- Laura attended the Glencarlyn Association meeting and they want to hold a 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary event on September 14, 2024. They are looking for support from FOAL for this event.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.  
Minutes submitted by Amy Miller