

April 1, 2024

## Friends of the Arlington Public Library (FOAL) Board Meeting Minutes

### Board Members:

*Present:* Claire Christian, Judy Kindell, Kate Summers, Natalia Lanteigne, Todd Ludeke, Brittany Robertson, Laura Porter, Jamie Krovontka, Kelly Fado, Jane Posner

*Absent:* Rob Hizon, Merri Horn

### Others Present:

Library: Diane Kresh and Rebecca Case

Other: Marty Pippins, Amy Miller

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President, Claire Christian

### I. March 5, 2024 board meeting minutes

**MOTION: Kate Summers moved to approve the March minutes as amended; Jamie Krovontka seconded; motion was approved unanimously.**

### II. Library report

Diane reported that Peter Petruski has left the library and Rebecca Case is now Acting Library Division Chief, Collections and Access and Board Liaison for FOAL. Diane will continue to attend FOAL Board meetings as she is able.

The Arlington Reads James Baldwin celebration is going well. Discussed holding a Jesmyn Ward event before the general public event at the library on May 14, 2024. Kate will work with One More Page books to purchase *Let Us Descend* as part of ticket price. Event will be an early cocktail hour with potential reserved seating at the library event.

The theme of next year's Arlington Reads program will be Romance.

MOU/MOA update: pressing to get that done. Meeting with county attorney is happening in the next week. Futures of the Library kickoff is in mid-April, more to follow from Diane, but FOAL will be represented.

Kate reminded the group that the Lebanese Taverna fundraiser is on April 24<sup>th</sup>. FOAL gets 20% of all sales, including gift cards, take out and dine in. Rebecca will help promote with the flyer that was created.

The winter reading program was at an all-time high and community response to programming is increasing across the board.

Rebecca has reserved the Quincy Room for specialty books for the October 2024 and April 2025 sales. Rebecca asked if there was interest in offering half price in the bookstores on the book sale half price day. This was done in the past. Board decided to not offer that as an option this year.

### III. Finance Update

\$1.9M in ACF, \$162K in two bank accounts.

Budget meeting took place for current fiscal year, will keep line items for programming, Arlington Reads, collections and DPT/bookstore operations. Marty to make overall recommendations in the coming month.

### IV. Donations and membership report

Jamie reported:

- We had 23 donations totaling \$1,174.62
- We had 51 new/renewals totaling \$2,155.00 (includes 1 new lifetime member)
- We have a total of 1,034 FOAL members (284 lifetime members)
- Library Giving Day – final email going out Wed., April 3<sup>rd</sup>
- One final Lifetime Member pickup event on Sat., April 6<sup>th</sup> at Aurora Hills library
- Merchandise:
  - Hold on reordering anything at this time; will re-evaluate profit margin/reordering after spring book sale.

### V. Book sale report

Specialty books will be in the Glebe Room for the spring book sale. Request for the library to provide signage to direct patrons to this new location.

Discover Books is no longer in business, Better World Books on track for pickup. The overall inventory is around same size as the April 2023 book sale. Thursday night change for this year – all mass market boxes will be cleared so that the tables will be available to dealers. Mass market paperbacks will be fully available Fri-Sun.

Kate and Jane will take care of food – same schedule as last year.

Discussion of new cash sorting machine and square receipt terminal.

**MOTION: Jamie Krovontka moved to approve purchase a new cash sorting machine; Kelly Fado seconded; motion was approved unanimously.**

**MOTION: Jane Posner moved to approve purchase of a Square receipt terminal; Kate Summers seconded; motion was approved unanimously.**

**MOTION: Kate Summers moved to pre-approve 3-5 nonprofits to shop with a \$50 gift certificate at our sale. Jamie Krovontka seconded; motion was approved unanimously.**

### VI. County Board advocacy session

Claire will speak at the April 2, 2024 County Board advocacy session. Main points to convey:

- Importance of interest in and use of library continues to grow, back to pre-pandemic levels
- Importance of supporting collections budget to keep that going
- FOAL supports all programming, would love more support from the county.
- Thank County Board for their support in meeting with them.

## VII. AOB

Jamie met with Caitlin who wanted FOAL to partner with her to bring Imagination Library to Arlington. Unanimous board decision to not support this endeavor at this time.

Rebecca shared that we have two collection department librarians working with the Juvenile Detention Center and are waiting to see what types of materials can be accepted.

## VIII. Next board meeting

The next board meeting will be on Monday, May 6, 2024 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

## Board Decisions

- Approval of March minutes as amended.
- Approval of the purchase of a new cash sorting machine.
- Approval of the purchase of a Square receipt terminal.
- Approval to allow 3-5 non-profits to shop with a \$50 gift certificate at the spring book sale. Non-profits identified: Books are Food for Your Brain, The Andrew B. Ferrari Argus House Group Home, Clothesine for Arlington Kids and Virginia Hospital Center "Book Buddies" program.
- Approval from Board on April 8, 2024 via email of restaurant package from Thai Treasure, purchase of hardcover books and overall details of Jesmyn Ward cocktail event.

## Action Items

- Kate and Amy to work with the library and vendors on the Jesmyn Ward cocktail reception.
- Kate and Amy to work with library to promote Lebanese Taverna fundraiser.
- Jane and Kate will discuss food for volunteers at the spring book sale and come up with a plan.

FOAL Board Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

## Executive Session: 8:28 p.m.

- Discussion of Jesmyn Ward cocktail event on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, associated ticket pricing and other details.
- **MOTION: Todd Ludeke moved to approve a \$50 ticket price; Kate seconded; motion was approved unanimously.**

Minutes submitted by Amy Miller