

January 6, 2025

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

### Board Members:

Present: Claire Christian, Judy Kindell, Brittany Robertson, Kelly Fado, Jamie Krovontka, Rob Hizon, Barbara Adde, Laura Porter, Todd Ludeke, Kate Summers, Jane Posner

Absent: Natalia Lanteigne

### Others Present:

Library: Rebecca Case, Diane Kresh

Other: Marty Pippins, Merri Horn, Amy Miller, Andrew Goodwin

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President, Claire Christian

### I. December 2, 2024 board meeting minutes

**MOTION: Kelly Fado moved to approve the December minutes; Laura Porter seconded; motion was approved unanimously.**

### II. Library report

The 2025 Summer Reading Read for a Cause recipient was discussed, and the board approved the recipient – The Animal Welfare League of Arlington.

The garage is still under renovation, but they are moving along with the work. The Pod is being used, unfortunately was vandalized, but that has been reported. The Shop has received the Glowforge, and it will be installed soon.

Rebecca and Laura will connect on material for the FOAL winter newsletter. Rebecca reviewed with the board upcoming and exciting programs at the library. We discussed overall advocacy for the library and ways in which FOAL can support this during the County Board meetings and throughout the year. It would be nice to have a group of people in the board room. In addition, we would like to reach out to the new County Board members to get them acquainted with the library and FOAL.

Kate recommended that we organize a dinner at Fireworks to feed those who will be attending the County Board meeting(s) and advocating on behalf of FOAL. Judy recommended that we have t-shirts for all in attendance. Kate will organize the dinner and help with speakers.

Diane shared that it matters if people can speak to how they personally have been affected by the library. She also feels like it is impactful for young people to speak to this. The better and broader our advocacy is, the more effective we can make the case.

Barbara suggested that we should have someone from each branch speak up at the County Board meetings as well.

A seminar on how we build collections will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 from 6:30–8 p.m. This would be another night to have some FOAL members attend.

### **III. Finance update**

\$2M in ACF, \$167K in two bank accounts as of December 31, 2024.

### **IV. Donations and membership report**

December 1 to 31, 2024

- 103 donations totaling \$19,434.17
  - \$14,385.60 was raised for GivingTuesday with 92 people making donations from November to the December 3 campaign. The average gift was \$154.68 and out of the 92 people making donations, 35 were first time donors.
- 28 new/renewals totaling \$960.00
- Total of 1,245 FOAL members (292 lifetime members)

Jamie presented a new idea for FOAL swag – a set of notecards with photographs of Central library in the four different seasons. More information forthcoming.

### **V. Branch representatives**

We have several branch openings (Aurora Hills and Columbia Pike) on the board. Barbara has volunteered to be the representative for the Shirlington branch. Andrew may be interested in being the branch representative for Columbia Pike.

There have been branch reps for a while, but we need to ramp up efforts, redefine what it means to be a branch representative and reinvigorate the program. Claire will circulate information in the coming weeks. Rebecca encouraged FOAL to make use of her to make introductions to each branch library head. All branch managers are interested in having branch representatives.

### **VI. Upcoming library and FOAL events**

Feel the Heritage event: Amy will recheck to make sure we're registered. This would be a great place to emphasize our advocacy messaging.

Bridgerton Tea: the tea is sold out at 35 spaces, but we may add 10 more spots. Continuing work on signage, meet and greet details and using the step and repeat.

Curtis Sittenfeld event: Barbara suggested that we hold a guest reviewer for the writers group based at the Courthouse library. Rebecca will check with the author/agent to see what options are available.

Rebecca's team at library have all books ready for the Juvenile Detention Center in Northern Virginia. Claire asked to have a kickoff event so that FOAL can do something positive for the kids to encourage their interest in reading.

### **VII. Book sale update**

Marty and Rebecca will connect on where the garage renovation is the last week of January so that he can start setting up scheduling for the book sale.

Rebecca and Marty will look at dates for the Spring 2026 book sale and let us know options.

Books and Bubbly: Rob and Kate would like to have a new Wednesday night member fundraising event. There will be a limited number of tickets sold and would run concurrently with the volunteer shopping. Ticket (price TBD) may include a pre-set number of books, a drink and cookies/treats.

There was some concern about holding this at the same time as the volunteer shopping event, as well as FOAL members who are on a limited budget. Kate will pull together a proposal with costs associated and share with the board at a later date for approval.

Barbara suggested a new idea for the book sale to engage students. Students would write and submit short book reviews for possible use in book sale outreach. Submissions would be reviewed by a team and a certain number of reviews would be published on FOAL social media, website and at the book sale. Students whose submissions are accepted would receive a free book coupon. Barbara will provide a proposal to the Board via email.

#### **VIII. New t-shirt design update**

Brittany shared the new "Virginia is for Readers" t-shirt design via email. The goal is to create a design that is evergreen, specifically finding a design that appeals to the masses. Brittany requested approval from the board to use the design presented and to order new merchandise in time for the upcoming winter and spring events.

**MOTION: Jane Posner moved to approve moving forward with ordering new merchandise; Kate Summers seconded; motion was approved unanimously.**

#### **IX. DPT update**

There was a brief discussion of volunteers at book sale.

#### **X. Next board meeting**

The next board meeting will be on Monday, February 3, 2025 at 7 p.m.

#### **Board Decisions**

- Approval of the December meeting minutes.
- Approval of the dates for the 2026 spring book sale – April 16-19, 2026.
- Approval of \$500 for a pizza buffet at Fireworks for speakers and attendees at the County Board meeting on March 25, 2025.
- Approval of \$7,593.21 for the FOAL merchandise order on January 23, 2025.

#### **Action Items**

- Kate will scope out pizza event prior to County Board meetings and share with the board.
- Claire will send out branch representative tasks to board for review.
- Amy will confirm registration for the Feel the Heritage Festival.
- Kate will scope out a Wednesday members night fundraiser for the book sale.
- Barbara will write up her proposal for the book review outreach.

FOAL Board Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.  
Minutes submitted by Amy Miller