

March 3, 2025

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

Board Members:

Present: Claire Christian, Jane Posner, Jamie Krovontka, Rob Hizon, Barbara Adde, Natalia Lanteigne, Judy Kindell, Andrew Goodwin, Laura Porter, Kate Summers, Todd Ludeke

Absent: Brittany Robertson, Kelly Fado

Others Present:

Library: Diane Kresh, Rebecca Case

Other: Marty Pippins, Merri Horn, Amy Miller, Maureen Quinn, Michelle Kilkenny

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President, Claire Christian

I. February 3, 2025 board meeting minutes

MOTION: Judith Kindell moved to approve the February minutes; Kate Summers seconded; motion was approved unanimously.

II. Library report

The library has hosted a large amount of programming and resources for federal workers over the last couple of weeks, which has been very successful.

The winter reading program concludes on March 1, 2025 and Rebecca will send statistics via email to the board. The wedding coverage continues to be incredible with features in People Magazine, NBC4, and more.

Diane and Rebecca shared that for the last couple of years the library has been allocated a little over \$800K in one time funds to support collections in the county budget. The County Manager is proposing \$250K in one-time money in this year's budget. This funding reduction will primarily affect e-materials. It is up to us to make the case to the County Board why we need to keep funding at the same levels as in years past. More to follow once decisions are made in April 2025.

New funding requests from the library:

- VHC Behavioral Psych ward—asking for 40 books and puzzles. **MOTION: Barbara Adde moved to authorize the donations of books and puzzles; Judith Kindell seconded; motion approved unanimously.**
- Programming asks:
 - Summer Reading Materials: The library requests \$7,000 to purchase higher level graphic novels and nicer picture books for summer reading giveaways.
 - Additional programming for federal workers: The library requests \$3,000 to be able to offer additional programming for federal workers who need to retool their resumes. **MOTION: Claire Christian moved to authorize \$3,000 in funding for resume assistance; Laura Porter seconded; motion approved unanimously.**
 - Voting rights exhibition: This summer, APL will host a major exhibition titled “From Barrier to Ballots” on Arlington and Northern VA voting rights history

and the 1960s civil rights movement. There will be two exhibits – one at Bozeman and one at Central. The exhibit will be in place from August 1 to November 24, 2025. The library requests \$30,198 in funding.

III. Budget advocacy update

Claire reported that we have had a great response on our request for advocates for the County Board meeting on March 25, 2025. There will be a pizza dinner beforehand.

IV. Finance update

\$2.2M in ACF, \$126K in two bank accounts. Natalia will set up a meeting with the library to go over results. YTD spend report by the library: \$146K of \$360K. Natalia will also set up a meeting with ACF to talk through ideas on how to bring awareness on how to donate money to the library.

V. Donations and membership report

February 1 to 28, 2025

- 14 donations totaling \$1,072.77
- 42 new/renewals totaling \$1,530.00
- Total of 1,266 FOAL members (293 lifetime members)

Library Giving Day is on April 1, and we will aim to do a condensed email and social media campaign around this event.

VI. Branch representatives update

Jamie met with Laurel, the branch manager at Courthouse. Andrew met Miguel, branch manager at Columbia Pike. Miguel wants to do more programming partnership opportunities as well as networking events. He is also interested in bringing Grooving on the Pike back – maybe 3-4 times a year. Barbara met with Janelle at Shirlington, and they discussed tabling at farmers markets in the summer. Barbara is also bringing overflow books to various free little libraries and is interested in an event with AWLA and the Shirlington branch.

Proposals forthcoming from Courthouse and Columbia Pike with requests for funding.

Claire is drafting up a new FOAL Board member description document and she will circulate that document to the larger group for feedback.

VII. Upcoming library and FOAL events

Claire confirmed March 20 from 3–5 p.m. for the reception to launch the Juvenile Detention Center library. FOAL will provide pizza, snacks and drinks and Claire is hoping that some board members can attend. They also need carts to transport the library around; Claire will send these costs by email. \$500 each.

MOTION: Judith Kindell moved to authorize the purchase of carts for the Juvenile Detention Center at \$500/cart (quantity TBD); Jane Posner seconded; motion approved unanimously.

The Feel the Heritage festival was amazing; we sold 4 of the 6 boxes of books from DPT as well as a few t-shirts. Barbara reported that the Bridgerton Tea and meet and greet

was a successful event all around. There were 45 people at tea (sold out) and after expenses we made \$1,833.

VIII. Book sale update

Marty reported that he purchased sets of walkie talkies for use during the book sale. One set will be near the registers and the other for the Quincy room.

The number of books is a little lower than last year, so load out will be easier the Monday after the sale. We will need 2 trucks worth.

A discussion of food for volunteers took place. Marty has the schedule from the last sale and will coordinate with Rob and Kate.

Kate shared details on the Books and Bubbly event which will take place on Wednesday, April 2, 2025 from 5 to 7 p.m. Details will be refined on the cost of ticket, vendor selection for food and beverage and a proposal will be presented via email.

Todd is putting together a list of volunteers who can staff a table in the Central Library lobby during the sale. There will be two people per shift, and they will help to direct patrons to the book sale, as well as answer questions.

IX. DPT update

Merri reported that the DPT has had a mix of busy and not so busy days. Claire shared that she would like to do a special appreciation for the DPT. Claire will send a note to the full Board regarding the details.

X. Next board meeting

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

Board Decisions

- Approval of the February meeting minutes.
- Approval to donate 40 books and puzzles to the VHC Behavioral Psych ward
- Approval of \$3,000 in funding for programming for federal workers.
- Approval via email of \$30,198 for the voting rights exhibition.
- Approval via email of \$7,000 in funding for the 2025 Summer Reading program for graphic novels and picture books.
- Approval of the purchase of carts for the Juvenile Detention Center.

Action Items

- Claire will circulate board position description document to the board.
- Claire will share DPT appreciation details through email to the board.
- The Board will review the documents from the library for the summer reading program and Voting rights exhibition funding requests and respond via email with a decision.

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