

September 8, 2025

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

Board Members:

Present: Claire Christian, Kate Summers, Jamie Krovontka, Laura Porter, Rob Hizon, Kelly Fado, Barbara Adde, Michelle Kilkenney, Natalia Lanteigne, Maureen Quinn, Judy Kindell, Todd Ludeke, Brittany Robertson, Andrew Goodwin

Absent: Jane Posner

Others Present:

Library: Rebecca Case, Diane Kresh

Other: Marty Pippins, Merri Horn, Amy Miller

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President, Claire Christian

I. August 4, 2025 board meeting minutes

MOTION: Kate Summers moved to approve the August minutes; Laura Porter seconded; motion was approved unanimously.

II. Library report

Diane shared that the voting rights exhibit is going extremely well with lots of media attention and requests for tours. The 2025 summer reading statistics were fantastic. Diane will share information about FOAL at every single event that she is presiding over.

County budget talks have started, and we are looking at a 5 to 10 percent cut. The library is looking to FOAL for financial information by the end of the calendar year to better make future decisions. Natalia is working on the details to wrap up FY25 and will have data to present. She will also work with the board to determine the budget. Suggestion was made to dust off the financial report that Marty completed last year.

Rebecca shared sponsorship-level tier options for corporations. Jane and Andrew to work together on this piece.

Numbers were shared for FY25 for The Shop:

- The Shop had 7,952 visitors, a 58% increase over FY24.
- The Shop completed over 1,119 3D prints, a 46% increase over FY24.
- Over 2,270 people attended over 150 Shop sponsored events.
- The art supply swap was attended by 297 people.
- The most popular programs include sewing, visible mending, 3D printers and game making.

Renovations are ongoing at Central library through the spring. The donations bin will move to the 10th street entrance.

III. Finance update

Natalie gave an update on finances and plans moving forward. Marty offered his assistance if needed.

MOTION: Jamie Krovontka moved to contract with a new firm for accounting; Judith Kindell seconded; motion was approved unanimously.

MOTION: Judith Kindell moved to hire Martin Pippins to help with financial needs with new firm, Natalia Lanteigne seconded, motion approved unanimously.

IV. Upcoming library and FOAL events

Barbara shared that the events subcommittee will be supporting a variety of events. For the National Friends of Libraries week there will be a “Blind Date with a Book” display at the book sale on Friday and Saturday featuring wrapped Banned Books. Pricing: \$3/kids; \$5/adults. October 4 is Westover Day; October 8 is Banned Book author Mike Curato and November 6 is the final Share the Love Arlington Reads. She asks the board to please sign up for tabling support.

To engage more with FOAL members, we will do two maker space events – January 12 and 25. Details forthcoming. Please submit your event ideas to the events subcommittee of Michelle Kilkenny, Barbara Adde and Amy Miller.

V. Donations and membership report

August 1 to 31, 2025

- 28 donations totaling \$4,902.11
- 42 new/renewals totaling \$2,500.00

We have a total of 1,381 FOAL members (303 lifetime members)

We are planning to have a small table in October to welcome some of the newest lifetime members at Central. We are also partnering with a student at Washington-Liberty High School for a student-led production of Julius Caesar. All donations go to FOAL. Jamie will staff the event on October 23.

VI. Book sale updates

Marty shared that while we originally discussed having a bag day the Monday after the sale, that has been cancelled due to logistical reasons. We'll look to do this in the future.

Donations are on record pace based on the number of boxes that we have. Marty and Merri are meeting to discuss planning for leftover books. Everything else is on track for the book sale. The last day for donations is October 15.

Rob and Kate shared that Books and Bubbly is on and invitations to FOAL members will go out soon. Food and drink have already been ordered.

Rob discussed the potential of doing a small sale in December. This would be like a pop-up sale with specific genres. Rebecca shared that there will be no gift nook this year, that they'll be doing something a little different on December 6 and suggests that FOAL joins in this event with a book sale pop-up. Merri and Marty will meet and sketch out how many boxes/what categories would fit into a December sale.

MOTION: Judith Kindell moved to move forward with a pop-up book sale this winter, Jamie Krovontka seconded, motion approved unanimously.

Claire requested signoff from the board for Martin Pippins contract to be renewed and the board approved.

VII. Updates from branch representatives

Barbara: Shirlington. The new resident flyer is approved and will go into welcome packages in the coming month. Discussed the possibility of interacting with their branch group meetings.

Maureen: Aurora Hills. Maureen met with new acting branch manager. They are very excited about reaching out to the community to promote the library. Next year is the 100th anniversary of the branch. What can we do to celebrate?

Andrew: Columbia Pike. Andrew met with Patrick, the branch manager. Most of the conversation focused on advocacy for the branch. Grovvin' on the Pike is of interest and he is actively working with the Columbia Pike Partnership on how to re-engage. Resident flyers will potentially be distributed for local apartments.

VIII. DPT update

Merri said thanks for gift cards and t-shirts, greatly appreciated. She reported that they have been very busy this summer. She anticipates a large fall book sale.

IX. AOB

Kate shared that she researched insurance coverage and would like to work with a local firm that exclusively insures non-profits in the area. The next step is to get a quote, but she will need financial data. Kate would like to have this in place before the October book sale.

MOTION: Kate Summers moved to release some financial information to the insurance company to get a quote, Judith Kindell seconded, motion approved unanimously.

Merchandise update: Brittany and Amy met with the library to discuss merchandise needs. Brittany shared a canvas tote option with a recommendation to order a set in time for the book sale.

Next order will be to focus on an Arlington-specific slogan.

MOTION: Judith Kindell moved to order 250 totes, Laura Porter seconded, motion approved unanimously.

X. Next board meeting

The next board meeting will be held Monday, October 6, 2025 at 7:15 p.m.

Board Decisions

- Approval of the August meeting minutes.
- Approval to contract with new firm for accounting.
- Approval to hire Martin Pippins to assist with new firm getting up to speed.
- Approval to move forward with a pop-up book sale December 2025.
- Approval to release some financial information to an insurance company for quote purposes.

- Approval to order 250 canvas totes.

Action Items

- Jane and Andrew to work on sponsorship tiers.
- Natalia will work to contract a new accounting firm.
- Kate to work with Natalia and Amy to get insurance application completed.
- Amy to order canvas totes.

FOAL Board Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Amy Miller