

October 6, 2025

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

### **Board Members:**

Present: Claire Christian, Rob Hizon, Brittany Robertson, Barbara Adde, Michelle Kilkenny, Maureen Quinn, Kate Summers, Judy Kindell, Todd Ludeke, Andrew Goodwin, Kelly Fado, Laura Porter, Jane Posner

Absent: Jamie Krovontka, Natalia Lanteigne

### **Others Present:**

Library: Rebecca Case, Diane Kresh

Other: Marty Pippins, Merri Horn, Amy Miller

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

### **I. September 8, 2025 board meeting minutes**

**MOTION: Judith Kindell moved to approve the September minutes; Barbara Adde seconded; motion was approved unanimously.**

### **II. Library report**

Rebecca and Diane shared information on the upcoming 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Arlington Reads and the programming surrounding the authors. The focus will be on food and how it can craft community, etc. The library is exploring options for creating a community cookbook and asked whether FOAL would want to partner to sell the cookbook. The goal is to have the final product for sale in Fall 2026. Rebecca will share the full details via email with the Board.

Diane also shared that they will be folding much of the programming under a big umbrella to celebrate America at 250. A committee has been established to plan the 250 event. Another big event next year is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11. The library is working with county staff to commemorate this milestone.

The County Manager is beginning work on the budget and it's looking like there will be a 10% cut. More information to follow. The programming department is asking for support for programming for federal workers. Last year FOAL pledged \$3K; but the library only used \$1,500. The library asks for \$1,500 to support this programming. Rebecca shared her writeup on the Fiedler Charitable Trust and requested the website be updated. The library would like FOAL's support to create a charitable trust moving forward.

Rebecca will send out meeting requests for marketing, merchandise and finance subcommittees. If there are any other meetings that we'd like to have, let Rebecca know.

**MOTION: Kate Summers moved to approved \$1,500 for federal worker programming; Maureen Quinn seconded; motion was approved unanimously.**

**MOTION: Kate Summers moved to support a \$3,000 outlay for a cookbook fundraiser; Barbara Adde seconded; motion was approved unanimously.**

### **III. Finance update**

Natalia shared that she has started the transition to a new FOAL accountant with Marty assisting. No significant changes in bank accounts to report.

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

Thanks Jane, Laura and Kelly for staffing the Westover Day table on October 4. Events coming up are the Mike Curato Banned Books event on October 8 and then David and Nicola Yoon on November 6.

It was suggested to have a meet and greet with the new poet laureate for Arlington. The library will get back to us on which authors for the 2026 Arlington Reads program will allow additional FOAL events.

### **V. Donations and membership report**

September 1 to 30, 2025

- 28 donations totaling \$3,562.88
- 75 new/renewals totaling \$2,790.00

We have a total of 1,263 FOAL members (304 lifetime members)

### **VI. Book sale updates**

We are in good shape for a very big book sale this fall. Rebecca, Rob, Marty met with the IT team to make sure everything is squared away for the POS machines and it will be tested next week. The group would like to revise checkout procedures for the April book sale.

Kate and Rob reporting that we are aiming to sell 70 tickets for the Books and Bubbly event – we are at 45 tickets as of this evening.

Amy shared that Rossana (food truck) will be on site Friday and Sunday of the book sale and will donate 10% of their sale proceeds back to FOAL. Kate will order food for book sale volunteers and Jane will do the Costco run.

Other miscellaneous items:

- The Quincy room will be available on Oct. 22 at 1:30 p.m. for setup.
- Amy will provide Marty with a list of authorized non-profits
- Todd reported that the only open volunteer slots are on Monday.
- The Blind Date with a Banned Book table will be on Fri and Sat of the sale.
- There will be a table in Central to direct people like we had at the spring sale.

### **VII. Updates from branch representatives**

Maureen (Aurora Hills) reported that Shahana, the Aurora Hills branch manager has met with two other civic associations in the area to discuss the library and the 100 year anniversary. The celebration would take place toward the end of 2026.

Jamie (Courthouse) via Laura, reported that Laurel, the branch manager, has many upcoming programs being featured in ArlNow. There will be a Death Café in November and December. The branch is tied with Shirlington for most library card signups with a

surge in foot traffic. Organizing a winter clothing drive with Pathforward. Particular need for hats, socks and coats.

Barbara (Shirlington) had a good meeting with Genelle and Rebecca. The branch will have a table with Halloween-themed books for the Village at Shirlington Halloween event on October 25. The first of the 50 flyers went to the condos of Shirlington. Very receptive and hopefully we'll start seeing those being distributed.

Andrew (Columbia Pike) will be distributing out flyers to encourage new move-ins to get their free FOAL book. Targeting buildings that are less than 2 blocks from the branch.

**VIII. DPT update**

In great shape for the upcoming sale, donations have slowed down a little bit. We have a couple new members to the team, back to full staff.

**IX. AOB**

None.

**X. Next board meeting**

The next board meeting will be held Monday, November 3, 2025 at 7:15 p.m.

**Board Decisions**

- Approval of the September meeting minutes.
- Approval of \$1,500 for federal worker programming.
- Approval of a \$3,000 outlay for a cookbook fundraiser.
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**Action Items**

- All board members to review the Signupgenius to volunteer for FOAL tabling events.

FOAL Board Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

**Executive session**

During the executive session, the board discussed ideas and options for how to move forward with strategic planning. Claire has identified one candidate who is well-connected in the community and will look to find one other candidate. The group agreed to have a presentation from candidate one in November.

Executive session adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Amy Miller