

April 6, 2026

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

Board Members:

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

Absent: Kelly Fado

Others Present:

Library: Rebecca Case

Other: Marty Pippins, Merri Horn, Amy Miller, Emily Cunningham

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

I. Meeting minutes

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

II. Library report

The library is requesting 10 books once or twice per month for the Our Lady Queen of Peace Church Free Little Library. No motion needed, but the board approves this request. The Library would like to designate AFAC as the Summer Reading – Read for a Cause recipient. The theme is Plant a Seed, Read, which compliments the Stir it Up Arlington Reads programming theme.

MOTION: Judith Kindell moved to approve AFAC as the recipient of the Read for a Cause effort; Kate Summers seconded; motion was approved unanimously.

The Senior Pride Prom will take place on June 12. FOAL will supply and serve alcohol at the prom through ticket purchases. FOAL will conduct further research into a vendor and iron out details for this event. We will need board volunteers to sell tickets.

Rebecca reports that there will be only 1 elevator in use for the sale, no security guard on Thursday evening and volunteers should arrive no more than 30 minutes prior to opening. The library requests that FOAL have an information table in the lobby. For visibility, there will be concurrent programming happening at the book sale; one on Thursday evening and then Sunday live music in the lobby.

The library will present their budget request at the May FOAL Board meeting.

III. Financial report and update

Natalia provided a FY2026 review of FOAL financials as of April 1, 2026. Accounts are in order, no concerns.

IV. Upcoming library and FOAL events

Barbara reported on past events (Priya Krishna and The Shop open house), as well as on Q2 upcoming events. We need additional volunteers for the ArlingtonPalooza event,

and the events subcommittee will provide updates to the board on future fundraising events around Arlington Reads authors as they become available.

V. Donations and membership update

February 1 to 28, 2026

- 25 donations totaling \$2,709.23
- 45 new/renewals totaling \$3,045.00

March 1 to 31, 2026

- 39 donations totaling \$6,792.78
- 114 new/renewals totaling \$3,830.00

We have a total of 1,455 FOAL members (312 lifetime members)

Library Giving Day was a small, quick campaign this year and we raised \$3,819.02.

Emily Cunningham, guest and FOAL member, shared information on two groups that she wanted to raise awareness for in the community. The FOAL board will discuss these options and determine if they fit into our fundraising calendar.

VI. Book sale updates

Marty is stepping down as the book sale manager after the spring sale. He has someone in mind to replace him and that person has been shadowing Marty. Marty will send the candidates information to the board for consideration.

Future book sale dates to lock down are:

- April 15 to 18, 2027 (spring sale)
- October 21 to 24, 2027 (fall sale)

Tip and seed money request has been sent to Natalia, and 300 Harris Teeter recyclable bags have been donated for the spring 2026 sale.

Other sale updates:

- Joe is reconstructing some lower level pallets; Marty requested screws for Joe to be purchased by FOAL.
- Pickup of leftover books has been coordinated for Monday morning after the sale.
- Per Merri, the floor layout is set. There will be some empty shelves and empty carts at the sale. Merri would like us to emphasize that we will not have any boxes available for people to use.
- Barbara will be doing a Blind Date with a Book promotion again and volunteers will assist with wrapping 50 books provided by DPT on the Wednesday before the sale.

Discussions also took place around volunteer roles and responsibilities as well as incorporation of a non-profit day at the fall 2026 book sale.

Books & Bubbly has sold out of tickets (70 total; \$80/person). Kate asked if we could get photography support from the library and Rebecca will check to see if that is a possibility. Jane will be at the event with two violinists to play for attendees.

VII. Strategic planning update

Zakiya sent the draft plan last week. Claire will send it to the board for review and set aside some time to discuss.

VIII. Updates from branch representatives

Maureen (Aurora Hills). She would like to request funding from FOAL to cover refreshments at the 100th anniversary celebration on May 30 from noon to 5 p.m. \$300 to \$500 is the estimate and was approved by the board. Claire will attend to help Maureen with the table and to speak at the event.

Barbara (Shirlington). Discussed the potential for a fundraiser with Jeni's ice cream shop and asked if funds raised can be earmarked from this event directly for the Shirlington branch? Barbara also shared that the coupon put together was not redeemed much at the one condo building it was distributed at. Barbara also requested to give out bookstore coupons at the Green Valley farmers market to bring people into the branch.

Andrew (Columbia Pike). Reported that the concierge team members at various apartment units were enthusiastic about the flyer/coupon and ran out within a month. Andrew will check-in with the branch manager to see how many have been used. Additional discussion of how to get kids their library cards and into the library.

IX. Misc. collaboration requests

Claire reported that we had a very strong showing from FOAL members and Cherrydale Citizens Association members at the County Board public hearing. The library was well represented with over 100 speakers.

Claire reported that we are still aiming to create the endowment for Arlington Reads. The announcement will take place in June. We are working on the financial end of things, giving levels and other backend work. Big thanks to Andrew and Jane for securing the Amazon donation.

APS reached out and they are looking to set up some partnerships with us. We partnered with them on the Readers Rise mentoring program already and they are asking for support for a thank you party for the reading mentors who have been working with the kids. Claire will send out more information.

The estimate for Juvenile Detention Center book club came in a decent amount over budget, so Claire will share additional information with the board.

X. Next board meeting

The next board meeting will be held Monday, May 4, 2026 at 7 p.m.

Board Decisions

- Approval of the February meeting minutes.

- Approval to print and pass out 500 free book coupon flyers to students at Alice Fleet Elementary for a maximum investment of \$2,000 from FOAL.
- Approval on April 13, 2026 for \$1,000 to Arlington Public Schools for the Readers Rise volunteer appreciation breakfast.
- Approval on April 13, 2026 for \$3,918 in additional funding for the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center to provide books for their book club.
- Approval for AFAC to be the recipient of the Summer Reading program, Read for a Cause effort.
- Approval of \$300 to \$500 to support the Aurora Hills Library 100 year anniversary celebration in May.
- Approval of approximately \$1,334.20 to purchase 140 new “Virginia is for Readers” t-shirts on April 24, 2026.

Action Items

- Amy to research and find vendor for alcohol for the LGBTQ+ Senior Pride Prom. Claire will apply for one-day event ABC license.
- Rebecca to ask if the library can provide photography support for Books & Bubbly.
- Claire will send out the draft strategic plan, Readers Rise program breakfast and Juvenile Detention Center book club funding request to the board via email.

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

Minutes submitted by Amy Miller