

May 4, 2026

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

Board Members:

Present: Michelle Kilkeny, Brittany Robertson, Kate Summers, Barbara Adde, Todd Ludeke, Rob Hizon, Judy Kindell, Natalia Lanteigne, Kelly Fado, Jane Posner

Absent: Claire Christian, Jamie Krovontka, Andrew Goodwin, Laura Porter, Maureen Quinn

Others Present:

Library: Diane Kresh, Rebecca Case, Rachel Pollen

Other: Marty Pippins, Merri Horn, Amy Miller

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice President, Kate Summers

I. Meeting minutes

MOTION: Judith Kindell moved to approve the April minutes; Rob Hizon seconded; motion was approved unanimously.

II. Library report

Rebecca shared the library financial request for FY27 as well as Makerspace statistics; note that FY26 stats are for only the first 9 months of the term. Included in the presentation were details on the request for funding, Arlington Reads potential programming, additional library programming and one-time requests. The library is requesting \$371,761.00 for FY27, which is less than previous years. The library welcomes any questions now and requests approval of their proposed budget by the end of May. Documents will be shared with the full board after this meeting.

Diane thanked FOAL for the successful spring book sale. She also requested that for any potential new program (ex: school flyers for a free book) that we connect with Rebecca as well as the youth services librarians.

Rebecca also shared that:

- The community read is coming up on May 21; please join if possible.
- The Aurora Hills 100 year celebration takes place on May 30.
- She talked with library leadership to use G2 for book sale expansion and they would prefer not to expand to G2.

Barbara asked if we could use the auditorium for the book sale. Rebecca said to keep her in the loop, and she will reserve the space if we end up moving in that direction.

III. Financial report and update

The Spring 2026 sale brought in \$100K; which was similar to the Spring 2025 and 2024 sales. Natalia shared a financial update noting that the ACF income went down by about \$50K. There was a slight increase in book sale revenue and a slight increase in memberships, merchandise and unrestricted donations.

IV. **Upcoming library and FOAL events**

Barbara shared that the Frances Lam event was a success; of particular note, handing out FOAL flyers to attendees as they left resulted in new membership and donations that evening. Upcoming events are:

- ArlingtonPalooza on May 16: we will sell merchandise and give out kids/teen books (teen books will be kept separate). Andrew, Judy, Brittany and Barbara to staff this event.
- Aurora Hills on May 30 (Maureen and Claire to staff this event)
- Senior Pride Prom on June 12: we need two FOAL members to sell drink tickets during the event.
- Antoni Porowski at GMU on June 24: FOAL will host a fundraiser. Details will be shared by email once solidified this week.

The annual meeting for FOAL will be held on Wednesday, June 17 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at El Rey. We will vote on a slate of officers and share financials. Please consider running for an officer position, specifically President as per by-laws, Claire is term limited. This is a great opportunity to step up into that role and lead FOAL.

We received a request to support Cherrydale Library during their America250 celebration.

MOTION: Kate Summers moved to fund the Cherrydale Library celebration with \$400 for refreshments; Judith Kindell seconded; motion was approved unanimously.

V. **Donations and membership update**

April 1 to 30, 2026

- 66 donations totaling \$10,392.58
- 315 new/renewals totaling \$12,030.00

We have a total of 1,572 FOAL members (314 lifetime members)

VI. **Book sale updates and post-sale debrief**

The Spring 2026 sale was the last one for Marty. He recommends that we reserve the side parking lot for the Monday after the sale. There is more room to move the books out and this allows the main parking lot to be free.

Marty shared that Margaret Newman shadowed Marty for the entire spring sale. He sent the board a proposal to hire her for the Fall 2026 sale. He also reminded the board that the first emails to all the vendors go out in early June, four months in advance of the next sale.

MOTION: Judith Kindell moved to hire Margaret Newman for the Fall 2026 sale as a test run under the same terms/contract that Marty has with FOAL; Kelly Fado seconded; motion was approved unanimously.

Marty will send the contract to the board and will let Margaret know about this decision.

There was additional discussion on the potential use of the auditorium for future book sale. Ideas included putting the kids book inventory in this space to expand that section and give some breathing room in the garage. We need to consider how this would impact Books & Bubbly.

Overall, the food for volunteers worked out well. Kate would like to spend a little more next sale on the dessert tray for Books & Bubbly. Overall, the event made great money for the library.

Rob shared some concerns around how quickly the volunteer signup slots get taken and suggests that we upgrade to the paid version of Signupgenius. The paid version will allow us to cap volunteer shifts.

MOTION: Kate Summers moved to upgrade to the paid version of Signupgenius at \$280/year; Judith Kindell seconded; motion was approved unanimously.

Barbara shared that the Blind Date with a Book promotion went well. The 50 initial books that were wrapped went quickly and the team ended up wrapping extra books. Barbara is still interested in pursuing the nonprofit focused event at the book sale and she will reach out to those on the board who indicated they were interested in helping with this effort for the fall sale.

VII. DPT update

Merri shared that today was the busiest day post-sale and that she's hoping to see donations pick up as the weather improves.

Jane shared some requests from the DPT:

- The DPT would appreciate having the sale numbers each night of the book sale.
- Teacher/librarian IDs need to be consistently checked.
- Could we add signs in the bookstores about when the next big sale will take place?
- Is it possible to have a fan(s) in the back of the garage near the cage?

In addition, Jane would like to continue to show our appreciation for the DPT, including getting their input/feedback on the sale. Merri will check-in with the DPT on potential ways to recognize the group.

MOTION: Judith Kindell moved revise our payment policy to no longer accept checks at the book sale; Jane Posner seconded; motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. Next board meeting

The next board meeting will be our annual meeting and will be held Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

Board Decisions

- Approval of the April meeting minutes.
- Approval to provide \$400 in funding to the Cherrydale Library for their Arlington250 celebration in July 2026.

- Approval to hire Margaret Newman for the Fall 2026 sale as a test run under the same terms/contract that Marty has with FOAL.
- Approval of \$280 to upgrade to a better version of Signupgenius.
- Approval to no longer accept checks at the book sale.
- Approval to fund the Library's FY27 budget of \$371,761 via email on May 28, 2026.
- Approval on May 29, 2026 to move forward with a December holiday pop-up book sale.
- Approval on June 10, 2026 to offer a free book coupon and 50% off the cost of a youth t-shirt as part of the LibraryFest passport promotion.

Action Items

- Rebecca will send out bookstore report to full board when it is ready (Kate asked if there was an uptick in sales at the store during the book sale).
- Marty will send his contract to the Board. The Board will then get a new contract together for Margaret.
- Barbara will put together a plan/proposal for a potential nonprofit day at the Fall 2026 sale.
- Amy will update the website with no "no check" policy and push the message out on social media.

FOAL Board Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Amy Miller