

September 14, 2026

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

Board Members:

Present: Claire Christian, Barbara Adde, Kate Summers, Todd Ludeke, Judy Kindell, Natalia Lanteigne, Jamie Krovontka, Laura Porter, Maureen Quinn, Andrew Goodwin, Michelle Kilkenny

Absent: Rob Hizon, Jane Posner

Others Present:

Library: Rebecca Case, Connie Wu

Other: Margaret Newman, Amy Miller

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President, Claire Christian

I. Meeting minutes

MOTION: Judith Kindell moved to approve the August minutes; Jamie Krovontka seconded; motion was approved unanimously.

II. Library report

Rebecca shared that the Community Cookbook would be ready for the fall book sale. The summer reading program stats were shared with over 10K registrants with a 3% increase from 2025. 39% of the registrants completed the program and 38% were Super Readers. Additional data was shared including prize redemption, programs offered and participation by Arlington zip codes. In addition, \$7,964 was donated to AFAC.

September is library card signup month and there are many promotions going on to celebrate. FOAL bookstore coupons are being given out to everyone who signs up for a card. There are 153K total patrons who have library cards and they just passed the 100K active patron mark.

Rebecca touched briefly on the December holiday pop-up sale, the upcoming October book sale and bookstore revenues which were also shared via email. Additional information was provided on the impacts and timelines of the Central Library construction. [Blackstone Audio](#) launched today and offers 6,500 titles that can be simultaneously check out by patrons.

The 2027 Arlington Reads season planning is underway, and the tagline is almost finalized (will be shared with the board via email.)

Board members asked various questions around the Library updates to include:

- What was the feedback on summer reading prizes? Patrons liked the prizes and the tie-in to the gardening theme was well received. Kate requested that the Library consider partnering with local businesses for next year's summer reading.

- Has the library discussed the breakout of zip code data for summer reading? The library is working on parsing out data and will circle back with more information.
- Is the September library card drive working in conjunction with school librarians? Yes, but looking to inquire for other timing for this connection. Andrew offered FOAL's support around this initiative.
- What is the strategy for the use of the FOAL truck? It is currently used by outreach librarians and for library-adjacent events. Programming is researching and reviewing future plans for the truck and will keep FOAL posted.

III. Financial report and update

Natalia presented an updated review of FY27 income and expenses. There were questions about the Ashken Foundation donation and a potential bequest for Aurora Hills – Natalia will follow-up on both. There was also discussion of debit card use, who has that information and financial processes that need to be defined.

IV. Upcoming library and FOAL events

Michelle shared updated information about Clarendon Day on September 26 where we are tabling from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. We will be selling our merchandise and doing a giveaway of four different totes filled with books targeting different age groups.

On Sunday, September 27, Barbara will staff a FOAL table at the Fairlington Farmers Market. She asked for one additional volunteer to assist. She will be selling merchandise, as well as distributing FOAL information.

On Thursday, October 15, we will host another fundraiser at Jeni's in Shirlington. Please reshare/promote through social media.

Other events coming up where additional support is needed include:

- November 4: Jessica Harris (Arlington Reads)
- November 15: Fall Harvest Cookbook sale at Westover
- December 5: B. Dylan Hollis (Arlington Reads)

There will be a new fundraising event on November 7 at Three Whistles in Clarendon – a Silent Reading Party featuring @KitonLit. It will be a morning of silent reading where people can get together and talk about books. Invitations will go out in early October to FOAL members and non-members. We will accept donations at the event. Kate would like to have a small selection of more popular books to sell. Rebecca will collect for us.

The Books & Bubbly invitation will be sent to members on Tuesday with additional emails throughout the coming weeks.

V. Donations and membership update

August 1 to 31, 2026

- 23 donations totaling \$3,071.54

- 44 new/renewals totaling \$1,590.00

We have a total of 1,577 FOAL members (317 lifetime members)

There was additional discussion around how to make the user experience with ACF as streamlined as possible.

VI. Book sale updates

Margaret shared that all book sale vendors are on board to support the fall sale and that our ad has been placed with booksalefinder.com. The volunteer Signupgenius should be going out in the next week or so.

There was discussion about types of payment accepted at the sale and exploring the option of using Apple Pay or Google Pay. POS machines in the garage can take the forms of payment but we have not been able to set it up in a seamless way.

Margaret and Rebecca will have a meeting after October 8 in regard to the POS machines. Margaret has also updated the book sale manual.

There was discussion around the survey that Barbara would like to conduct during the book sale. Option to have volunteers will roam around the sale and/or talk with people while they are waiting in line to complete the survey on the iPad.

The decision was made to sell bedazzled books in the Quincy room and Barbara would like to do the “Blind Date with a Book” shelf again this year.

Linda Friedman will coordinate nonprofits coming on Sunday afternoon of the sale.

VII. Other sales updates – eBay and merchandise

Amy provided an update on our eBay store. Since we opened, we have sold 53 items with \$6,008.26 with net sales of \$5,226.61. We have brought on three new volunteers to help with adding more merchandise to the store. The library has been a great partner.

Amy also provided an update on merchandise options for a limited run of the “I Borrow Banned Books” tagline on a mini tote and canvas pouch.

MOTION: Judith Kindell moved to approve spending \$2,500 for the purchase of mini totes and canvas pouches; Kate Summers seconded; motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. Branch updates

Jamie announced that she is leaving the board at the end of December.

Kate brought up the old program Concerts on Columbia Pike, wondering if that is something we want to participate in. Andrew will discuss with the brand manager at their next meeting and Rebecca will also discuss with programming.

Claire provided an update to the board in regard to succession planning. She would like to put a call out for the President and Treasurer positions. Claire will develop a draft term

of reference for the Executive Committee positions and Amy's position and will then share with the full board. The goal is to have clear definitions for positions, as well as workloads.

A brief discussion was held on how best to recruit for various board positions, defining the board and committee structure and the number of people we are looking to recruit.

IX. Next board meeting

The next board meeting will be held on Monday, October 5, 2026 at 7 p.m.

Board Decisions

- Approval of the August 3, 2026 meeting minutes.
- Approval of \$2,500 for the purchase of mini totes and canvas pouches to sell as a fundraiser at the book sale and then at branches.

Action Items

- Natalia will review the Ashken Foundation agreement and discuss next steps with the Library.
- Natalia and Claire will work on getting more information about a potential bequest for Aurora Hills Library.
- Natalia and Amy will work on bank/debit card procedures for FOAL.
- Rebecca to collect new books to sell at the Silent Reading party in November.
- Natalia to set up a meeting with ACF to discuss various board member questions.
- Margaret will work with Connie and Rebecca to discuss options for guidelines around payments at the book sales.
- Claire will develop a draft term of reference for the Executive Committee and Amy.

FOAL Board Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Amy Miller