October 5, 2026

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

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

Absent: Maureen Newman

Others Present:
Library: Rebecca Case
Other: Merri Horn, Amy Miller

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President, Claire Christian

I. Meeting minutes

MOTION: Barbara Adde moved to approve the September minutes; Kate Summers seconded; motion was approved unanimously.

II. Library report

Rebecca shared that bookstore revenues were down a little bit in September, likely due to not having as much merchandise available. The new cookbook (400 printed) will be sold at the fall book sale to start. A decision by the board was made to sell the cookbooks for $15.

Rebecca highlighted upcoming library events including a Stumbling Stones memorial presentation (10/3), Beyond the Book Bans (10/8), Arlington Reads: Jessica Harris (11/4), The Great Arlington Bakeoff (11/14) and several others.

There is a new feedback loop for library donations volunteers happening every other week. A new volunteer calendar has been set up, and a few other guidelines and procedures are being put into place. A brief discussion of what to do with miscellaneous donation items took place.

Rebecca also shared that the Shirlington Library FOAL bookstore is getting a facelift. It is the second highest grossing store in the library system. The goal is to open up and redesign the space with updated shelving. Glencarlyn Library is next on the list and Rebecca will provide more information as things progress.

Question arose around the G1 cage construction. Claire will follow-up with Joe to find out timeline for this project.

III. Financial report and update

Natalia shared an updated financial report; but there is not much of a change from last month. We are waiting on several updates from ACF and the Library. Natalia and our bookkeeper will be filing our 990 soon.

Questions were posed about the relationship between FOAL and ACF. Natalia will ask ACF to come and brief us at an upcoming meeting.

IV. Upcoming library and FOAL events

Michelle reported on our participation in Clarendon Day on September 26. We didn't sell a lot of merchandise but felt like we had a lot of community engagement. The top three questions at the booth were: when is the book sale, when does the volunteer sign up come out and how do I get a library card?

Please sign up for the remainder of our 2026 tabling events (Jessica Harris (11/4), Great Arlington Bakeoff (11/14), Westover Library Fall Cookbook sale (11/15), Holiday pop-up sale and Arlington Reads B. Dylan Hollis (12/5).

We are also holding at Silent Reading Party for FOAL members and non-members (RSVP required) on Saturday, November 7. Invitations are going out this week.

V. Donations and membership update

September 1 to 30, 2026

- 25 donations totaling $2,100.55
- 100 new/renewals totaling $4,160.00

We have a total of 1,607 FOAL members (318 lifetime members)

VI. Book sale updates

Rob reported in Margaret's absence. Inventory for the sale is about 1,800 boxes, which is a normal sized fall sale. The volunteer sign up is also quite full, except for the breakdown on Monday. Todd will work on getting more volunteers for breakdown Monday shift. Nonprofits are being coordinated with Linda Friedman.

There is a concern about the G1 elevator. Rebecca shared that there are no updates, but that we should plan on having just the G2 elevator. Rob also asked about side lot availability for Monday. Rebecca will keep Margaret and Rob updated as the sale gets closer.

There was also discussion on where the cookbooks will reside at the sale and whether or not to do another "Blind Date with a Book" promotion.

VII. Branch updates

Andrew (Columbia Pike) would really like to do a music event at the Columbia Pike branch and will be reaching out to the branch manager.

Maureen (Aurora Hills) – the branch is planning an event at the end of January where they will show a documentary on Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and having some of the local reps from that program plus kids' activities. They would like FOAL to attend. Further discussion of the potential for a donation for Aurora Hills took place; Claire has not received a response from the attorney despite several attempts.

Barbara (Shirlington) – the Jeni's fundraiser will take place on October 15 from 4 to 7 p.m. Please try to spread the word and attend.

Kate (Cherrydale) – shared that the Citizens for Cherrydale Library received the 2026 Advocacy Award from the Virginia Library Association for their advocacy work on behalf of the Cherrydale Library this year.

VIII. DPT update

Merri shared that donations have been down a little bit from what we usually see. She has done a preliminary layout of the sale and noted that we will have a few empty shelves on the carts, specifically in the computers, gardening and transportation categories. She recommends that we think about other routes to getting people to donate in the future. The DPT says thank you for the gift cards.

IX. Next board meeting

The next board meeting will be held on Monday, November 2, 2026 at 7 p.m.

Board Decisions

- Approval of the September 14, 2026 meeting minutes.
- Approval to sell the Cooking Up Community cookbook for $15.

Action Items

- Claire will email Joe to find out timeline around G1 cage construction.
- Natalia will reach out to ACF to coordinate a presentation for a future board meeting.

FOAL Board Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Executive session began at 8:13 p.m.

A strategic planning discussion took place. After the book sale, Claire would like to send a new board structure document to the board for review, as well as revisit Barbara and Andrew's proposal for the FOAL board. Natalia and Claire will also work on getting an announcement for the Treasurer position out soon.

Executive session ended at 8:22 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Amy Miller