

Friends of the Oak Park Public Library Board Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2025

Present In Person: Kathleen Bell, Russ Glidden, Stuart Greene, Beth Streit, Chet Taranowski, Eric Bryning, Robert Becker, Nancy Hartman, Jodi Kolo and Elsworth Carman

Present on Zoom: Diane Cranford, Nancy Clark

Member: Anne Polaski

Call to Order: Russ called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Review of May 19, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes: Beth noted corrections that Jennie gave her to the minutes. After those corrections, Robert moved to accept the minutes. Kat seconded the motion and all approved.

Treasurer's Report: Leila is still recovering so Kat has temporarily filled in. She received a report from Leila about Friends' finances. The Friends' checking account has a balance of \$14,374.49, up from \$13,632.58 due to square credits and .59 in interest credits. Our money market balance is \$40,791.07.

Library Board Report: Jodi Kolo

- **\$4K grant from William G. McGowan Charitable Fund** The Friends received a \$4,000 grant from the William McGowan Charitable Fund to support Latinx community programs. Russ confirmed that the Friends can accept restricted funds and that proper tracking will be set up. The grant will support programming similar to previous initiatives, including author events and cultural performances. Stu has initiated contact regarding the grant, and Beth will review the agreement once received, with Jodi and the finance subcommittee to be kept informed of next steps.
- **New Executive Director: New Board Liaison for Friends** The new Executive Director of the Library, Elsworth Carman, introduced himself and gave the group some information on his background. He has heard from many community members about FOPPL and its sterling reputation and is looking forward to working with the Friends. He is very supportive of the Book Fair. The Library Board has not yet designated a Friends' liaison.

Standing Reports:

Membership: Chet Taranowski Chet has received and reviewed an application from Anne Polaski to join the Friends' Board. Anne told the group why she wanted to join the Board. Chet moved, Beth seconded and all approved a motion for Anne to join the Board.

Folk Music Series: Nancy Clark. Because of technical difficulties, Nancy was unable to give her report in person. However, she had provided a written report which Russ read. The next events will be 9/15, 10/12 and 11/17. Nancy is working on 2026 bookings. Due to staffing issues, the library has asked Nancy to limit the programs to Monday through Thursday evenings.

2025 Book Fair Kat noted that volunteers are asking about volunteering for set up and the sale the week of July 7. We need Board coverage before we can release volunteer slots. She has proposed three shifts the Monday through Thursday before the sale – and posted shifts for the Board on those days from 9-12, 1-4 and 5:30-8:30. However, there are a lot of unfilled shifts for Board members. Kat resent the link to SignUp Genius to the Board and asked that those who have not yet signed up for shifts please do so.

Kat and Russ have reviewed the signage for the Fair. There are a lot of inconsistencies in the signage and too narrow categories. We will create new signs with broader categories and ask volunteers not to create their own signs. Robert will ask volunteer Shirleen Kajiwarra if she can laminate the new signs.

Publicity The group discussed publicity efforts for the sale, including distributing bookmarks at the Farmers Market and Fourth of July parade. We are about 25% down on book donations compared to last year and need to reach out to the community for more donations. Anne will write a letter to the Wednesday Journal about needing more donations. Kat encouraged Board members to promote the sale and donations on social media.

Collection of books from Pat Koko Former Board member Pat Koko told Russ she has 29 museum quality books for the Fair. Chet has retrieved them from her.

Boxes We have enough Better World boxes but we need more regular boxes. Russ will reach out to Jennie about ordering more. We need to order tables too. A discussion was had about the library flip top tables and whether they could be used for the Fair. Facilities will be consulted to see if they can be used.

Since we are reusing boxes, we will no longer label them. Board members supervising shifts need to make sure volunteers put the boxes on the right palette. The palettes will be labeled with which floor they will be moved to.

Next issue of *Between the Lines* Release date? Russ sent a list of suggested articles to the subcommittee and Jennie and Diane did as well. We should have enough for an issue. The subcommittee will try to get the next issue out before July 4. Anne volunteered to help with the next newsletter.

Day in Or Village June 1 recap. It went smoothly. People visiting our booth were enthusiastic and loved the free books.

Adjournment **Robert** moved, Nancy H seconded and all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm

Next Board Meeting: August 18, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Streit