

FOPPL August 18, 2025 Board Meeting

Present In Person: Russ Glidden, Beth Streit, Chet Taranowski, Eric Bryning, Robert Becker, Diane Cranford, Nancy Hartman, Jennie Stevens, Anne Polaski and Suzy Antell

Present on Zoom: Nancy Clark, Leila Massouh, Denise Roser, Colin Bird-Martinez and Mika Yamamoto

Call to Order: Russ called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Review of June 16, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes: Jennie moved, Chet seconded and all approved the June 16 Board Meeting Minutes as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Leila Massouh reported that the Book Fair grossed \$41,047 and netted \$36,224. The expenses to date are \$6,130.79. The Friends have \$53,511 in our checking account.

Library Board Report: Jodi Kolo, the library's communications director, has left for another position. There is no news on a replacement yet. Suzy Antell reported that the library staff gave very positive feedback on the Book Fair. The \$4,000 grant from the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund reported on at the June 2025 meeting is probably not going to the Friends but directly to the library. Suzy will confirm that.

The Friends' Board welcomed our two new library trustee liaisons - Colin Bird-Martinez and Mika Yamamoto.

Standing Reports:

Membership: Chet stated that there is nothing new to report.

Folk Music Series: Nancy has booked the first concert for 2026 and the next one will be in September.

2025 Book Fair Review

The Board discussed the letter it received from volunteers Sophie and Bekah. Sophie and Bekah expressed many good ideas. There may be a better way to utilize the space on the third floor of the library.

We will be getting more large signs for next year's sale. Russ has asked for 50. The Board discussed ways to improve signage for next year and the possibility of providing a more detailed map of the layout.

Donations are slow to arrive at the beginning of the donation period. We had to cancel some shifts early on. We discussed telling the volunteers to make sure they check their emails to assure that their shifts are not cancelled. We also discussed ways to encourage people to bring their donations earlier. Diane suggested that we post a count down on the days left to donate so that we don't get all of our donations in the last days of the donation period.

Beth mentioned that some people misread the hours for the bag sale and tried to shop during the hours set aside for volunteers. It was suggested that next year, we do not publicize the volunteer only hours at all to the general public but just communicate the volunteer only hours to our volunteers.

2025 Volunteer Appreciation Pizza Party Review Russ would like to institute a new rule that no Board member can accept prizes at the volunteer appreciation party.

Jennie suggested that we give Jimmy from Jimmy's Place a t-shirt next year as he has been giving us a 20% discount on the pizzas for the party for many years.

The Board has received a lot of positive feedback on the party from the volunteers. They loved the charts. They were also impressed that Elsworth, Mika and Colin were there.

Russ read a letter he received on behalf of the Board from volunteer Alice Rose. She commented very favorably on how the Fair was run.

Fall Social Bob and Jennie volunteered to plan this. They will let us know what date they pick.

Next issue of *Between the Lines* Release date? The subcommittee will release the next issue a week or two before the fall social. The Board discussed topics for the next newsletter. Kat told Russ that she would like to see a request in the newsletter that people save up their books for the next book sale. Although there is a bin for donations outside the library for use in the off season between Book Fairs, it gets over full and Open Books can't get out to empty it that often.

Other topics suggested were a volunteer profile on Shirleen, the origin of the moon logo, a sales recap and a pizza party recap.

Anne is joining this subcommittee.

Permanent name badges for board members The name badges were a success. Volunteers reported that they were able to see who they could go to with questions during sorting. Jennie has researched getting permanent name badges. We would like magnetic ones. Jennie has talked to the Historical Society about their permanent name badges, which were \$15 each. In addition to names, the Board would like our titles and logo on the badges. Jennie will get more information and report back to the Board.

2026 Book Fair dates

- **July 10-12, 2026 sale dates**
- **May 30 – June 27 donations accepted**

Russ reported that all the rooms are cleared and we have the community room for the full run. The Board discussed how we can get more volunteers who can move boxes and help with the breakdown the Monday after the sale. We will all brainstorm about this issue.

For discussion at next meeting

- **Permanent t-shirt for year-long sales?** We sold out of the permanent t-shirts we had so we need to design a new one. Eric suggested we open the design of the t-shirt to the public and maybe the design of other merchandise as well.
- **Replenish stock of what items for sale (magnets/ball caps/totes)?**
- **New Merchandise for sale?** We discussed stickers and magnets as more inexpensive items that might sell well.
- **Raise prices on any/all categories for 2026?** Russ noted that the Friends has had the same pricing for 20 years and that we should raise our prices. Our prices are by far the cheapest of any book fairs in the area. We will not raise prices on children's books though.

These topics will be discussed in more depth at the next meeting.

Adjournment Jennie moved, Nancy seconded and all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: October 20, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Streit