

# Friends of the Oak Park Public Library Board Meeting, October 20, 2025

## Call to order & roll call

- **Present in Person:** Russ Glidden, Beth Streit, Chet Taranowski, Eric Bryning, Robert Becker, Diane Cranford, Nancy Hartman, Jennie Stevens, Kat Bell, Leila Massouh, Colin Bird-Martinez, Mika Yamamoto and Suzy Antell
- **Present on Zoom:** Nancy Clark, Anne Polaski, Denise Roser, and Stuart Greene
- **Call to Order:** Russ called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

## Approval of minutes

- **Review of August 18, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes:** Jennie moved, Diane seconded and all approved the August 18 Board Meeting Minutes.

## Reports

### Treasurer's Report

Leila reported that the Friends have \$50,132.13 in the business checking account and \$40,804.71 in the money market account. Nancy moved, Jennie seconded and all approved the Treasurer's report.

### Library Board Report

Suzy discussed the possibility of the Library pursuing grant opportunities through the Friends. Many grants that the Library would like to pursue require 501(c)(3) status which the Friends have but the Library does not. The group agreed to explore this option further, with Suzy offering to set up a meeting to discuss specific grants.

Suzy said that the Library is seeking guidance on whether the Friends wants the Library to provide a wish list of items the Library would like the Friends to fund. The Friends' Board has previously voted that we no longer need a wish list. We will be giving the Library \$25,000 this year, which is in line with previous donations. The Library will provide a report in January on how last year's funds were spent.

There was a discussion of the types of expenses the Friends have traditionally funded. Suzy suggested the we might create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Friends and the Library to establish a clear process for funding decisions. This is something other Friends' groups and libraries have created.

Suzy noted that the Library just decided on its budget for next year last week. Kat stated that we may need to change our scheduled donation to the Library to coincide with the Library's budget timeline, potentially moving it to June to align with the Library's financial planning.

Suzy mentioned that the job posting for Jody's replacement as Director of Communications has been closed and they are in the first round of interviews.

## Standing Reports

### Membership

Chet will be sending out a new letter to members to renew their memberships. He has created a survey to send to new members. The group explored options for automatically sending survey links to new members.

### Folk Music Series

Nancy discussed her upcoming attendance at FARM (Folk Alliance Region Midwest) and plans to fill the schedule for 26 after returning with ideas. There is one more scheduled performance on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The next event will be in late January.

### Fall 2025 social update

Jennie discussed the logistics for the social on Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, which will be bingo with bookish-themed prizes. She is ordering baked goods from Jewel, which will include gluten free options.

### *Between the Lines* review, ideas for next issue

The group discussed the distribution and archiving of newsletters, deciding to keep the current system of emailing them to those members the Library has in its system. Anyone can receive the newsletter if they sign up for it through the Library website.

The next newsletter will come out around February. Diane will coordinate article submissions. Chet suggested a piece on the folk series. Russ plans to submit an article on the history of Friends' groups. He also suggested the newsletter subcommittee collect short book-related interviews for a future newsletter feature.

### Permanent name badges for board members

Jennie presented a design for a permanent name badge which will be white with a blue logo and cost \$15 each. The group discussed whether to put titles on the badges as they may change. It was decided to put at least the President's name on his badge. We will order the permanent name badges after the annual meeting in March, as half the Board is up for re-election.

## Raising prices on any/all categories for 2026

The Board discussed raising the prices for all books, including children's books. Our prices are considerably lower than those of other Friends' book fair prices. We agreed to raise prices on all categories except DVDs, CDs and games and will decide by how much by the annual meeting in March.

## Merchandise

- **Permanent t-shirt for year-long sales:** We will have an "evergreen" permanent shirt without a date on it. The group discussed the potential design and style. Suzy suggested forming a t-shirt subcommittee to propose a design and said that the Library had a graphic designer on staff who could help.
- **2026 t-shirt:** Eric will work on designing the 2026 t-shirt.
- **Replenishing stock of items for sales:** We have virtually no merchandise left. The group discussed ordering chambray caps, magnets and totes. Jennie will check on tote prices and magnet prices. Russ will liaison with other merchandise vendors.

## Board Social

Jennie suggested the Board get together in December. She will send out a doodle to pick the date that works the best for most people.

## Dates for 2026 board meetings

- January 12
- March 16
- May 18
- June 15
- August 17
- October 19

## Adjournment

Jennie moved, Robert seconded and all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

**Next Board Meeting:** January 12, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Streit