

Farmington Libraries since 1901

Library Board Minutes

February 19, 2025

Attendees: Dana Pescatello, Alan Sherman, Lyman Louis, Rich Olivastro, Jocelyn Kennedy, Kate Martorelli, Gary Ontko, Vanitha Patil, Norma Hartley, Brian Lindroth, Elisabeth Umpleby, Henry Gu, Linda Chapron, Amy Palumbo, Ida Franklin, Celia Bouza

Board Members Not Present: Trish Garcia

Guests: Monique Kucia, Shana Shea, Jerusha Neely (Library staff member and strategic planning team member)

Quorum: A quorum was determined. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment: There were no members of the public present, and consequently, no public comments were made.

Approval of the December Meeting Minutes: Lyman moved, and Linda seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved with 2 corrections.

Board Chair Report:

Dana announced that this meeting will be dedicated to discussing the new library strategic plan. Any non-pressing issues will be deferred to the next board meeting.

Executive Director Report:

Jocelyn provided the board with an update on library operations through a memorandum:

- Maker Fair: Scheduled for March 23. Board members are strongly encouraged to attend and support the event.
- Staffing: Cindy Stafford has joined the library team, filling the Technical Services position. The library has reopened the search to fill the Director of Children's Services position.
- Fire and Emergency Alarm System: The control panel at the main library has reached the end of its life. The library has allocated the necessary funds for the replacement, with the total cost being \$46,240.
- Building Condition Assessment and Capital Planning: The FVGLA has approved the expenditure for conducting a building condition assessment and capital planning. SP+A has been engaged to undertake this work.

Friends of the Library:

Linda distributed Friends membership letters to the board and encouraged all members to join the Friends organization. She shared several updates through the Friends meeting notes:

The Book Nook achieved its highest sales in January, generating over \$1,500.

The Friends successfully completed the setup of the library at New Horizon Village.

Two “We Love Our Staff” appreciation baskets were prepared and raffled off to library staff as a gesture of gratitude.

The upcoming annual Friends book sale is scheduled for June 5 to June 7. Volunteers are needed to assist with:

- Setting up the sale,
- Managing the event during sale days,
- Cleaning up afterward, and
- Distributing unsold books to local charities.

Committee Reports:

Farmington Room:

Jerusha is currently working on updating the policies for the Farmington Room. She is also collaborating with local volunteers to organize and compile metadata for the map collection.

Starting in February, the Farmington Room will have updated drop-in hours. Visitors will also have the option to schedule appointments for more personalized assistance.

Additionally, Jerusha is organizing a group meeting with several local cultural organizations, including: Unionville Museum, Stanley-Whitman House, Farmington Historical Society' Farmington Land Trust, Miss Porter's School, Hill-Stead Museum, and Lewis Walpole Library.

Bylaws:

A committee meeting is scheduled on February 28th for consideration of a proposal from Mike Schloss, who is FVGLA's president, to address the inconsistency between the library's bylaw and the FVGLA's bylaw.

The regular session was adjourned at 7:05pm. Linda moved to adjourn, seconded by Lyman. The meeting entered the executive session for strategic plan discussion.

The board returned to regular session at 8:28pm. Gary moved to adopt the Strategic plan document with changes to the wordings. Alan seconded the motion. The strategic plan was accepted with all in favor.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm. Brian moved to adjourn, seconded by Linda.

Next Board Meeting: March 19 at 7:00pm.