

Farmington Libraries since 1901

Library Board Minutes

April 16, 2025

Attendees: Dana Pescatello, Alan Sherman, Lyman Louis, Rich Olivastro, Jocelyn Kennedy, Brian Lindroth, Elisabeth Umpleby, Henry Gu, Linda Chapron, Celia Bouza, Amy Palumbo, Vanitha Patil

Board Members Not Present: Ida Franklin, Trish Garcia, Kate Martorelli, Norma Hartley, Gary Ontko,

Guests: Brianne Webster (Library staff member attended to give a presentation to the board)

Quorum: A quorum was determined. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

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

Approval of the March Meeting Minutes: Lyman moved, and Brian seconded; the minutes were unanimously approved.

Presentation on Maker Space:

Brianne led a maker space tour to the board. She presented the equipment hosted at the Maker Space and the programs and training designed to help the community to better utilize the resources.

Board Chair Report:

Dana updated the board on the recent happenings and she also highlighted the upcoming events and plans:

1. Dana reported that the Maker Fair on March 23 was a success with attendees reaching 1000. The fair attracted multi-generational community members and provided diverse activities where some spaces were very socially active, and some other spaces hosted quiet activities yet well attended. There is a discussion about the event's capacity and Jocelyn confirmed that extending the duration and space is in consideration for next year's Maker Fair.
2. Dana summarizes the FVGLA semi-annual meeting on March 31.
3. Dana informed the board that the board will conduct the executive director's evaluation at the May board meeting which will be held on May 14.

Executive Director Report:

Jocelyn updated the board on recent changes within the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and other federal institutions, discussing both the immediate funding impact and potential long-term effects. Key concerns include inter-library book delivery service, tariffs increasing book acquisition costs and broader economic shifts affecting library expenses and funding. She emphasized that the unpredictability of the current administration poses challenges for future budgeting.

She also shared personnel updates, announcing that Sage Gentry, formerly the Teen Librarian, has been hired as the Director of the Children's Department. Additionally, the library's management structure has been adjusted, with the youth services librarian—previously known as the teen services librarian—now reporting to the children's director. To fill the role vacated by Sage, the library will hire a new youth services librarian.

In response to inquiries about special education student numbers in Farmington, Jocelyn reported that approximately 1,000 students receive educational accommodation, while the number of adults with

accessibility needs remains unknown. This highlights the importance of the library's new initiative to create more opportunities for neurodiverse community members and ensure an inclusive and welcoming environment.

Finally, she announced upcoming events. The summer reading kickoff is scheduled for June 18, with a sensory summer reading kickoff on June 16, designed specifically for children with sensory overload challenges.

Friends of the Library:

Linda reported that Book Nook last month's sales reached \$1,000; the Friends sent 5 boxes of books to the VETS in April; the Friends membership drive's collection exceeds that of last year's. She reminded the board that the Friends will host a book sale from June 5th to June 7th and emphasized the need for volunteers to support the event.

Additionally, the Friends will hold an end of year potluck celebration at the main library where the wine will be served. She requested the board's approval of wine serving at the event. Dana moved; Lyman seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Linda reported that as the Farmington High School building project nears completion, the damaged and size reduced main library's garden will have its size restored and plants replaced. The Friends is looking for gardeners to join in the efforts of garden restoration and maintenance.

Committee Reports:

Facilities & Infrastructure Committee:

SP+A is expected to have the preliminary facility reports ready in April.

The main library plans to have its interior painted to freshen up the looks. Jocelyn is waiting for the quotes for this job. At the same time, the staff will remove the shelves around the column in the entrance hall before the painting starts.

Staff found new leaks related to the heating system and plan to address the issue before the next heating season.

Bylaws:

The Bylaws Committee is collaborating with FVGLA to amend the organization's Bylaws. Both the original and revised versions will be prepared for review.

One significant change involves the selection process for FVGLA trustees from the library board. Currently, trustees are automatically nominated upon becoming library board members. Under the proposed revision, the library board will nominate only five additional board members to serve on the FVGLA board, while the library board officers will continue to be appointed as FVGLA trustees automatically.

Policy Committee:

The committee is currently working on reviewing the library's personnel policy and will have the revised policy ready for review and approval at the May meeting.

Other Business: Brian suggested incorporating fundraising programs into the library's strategic approach. In addition to the Friends, who raise funds to support various library programs, FVGLA is responsible for maintaining and growing endowment funds. It was proposed that the board consider fundraising for specific purposes once the execution plan for the new strategic plan is developed. This approach would enhance the effectiveness of fundraising efforts.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm. Linda moved to adjournment, seconded by Lyman.

Next Board Meeting: May 14 at 7:00pm.