

## FRIENDS OF THE AMHERST PUBLIC LIBRARY MEETING

Minutes for February 25, 2026

**Called to Order:** 11:23 AM

**Present:** Sandee Ruth, Carol Hutner, Angela Cecil, Barbara Brown, Barbara Gilbert Whitcomb, Barbara Neuhoff, Rhonda Neuhoff, Jackie Fedako, Laurie Laubacher, Patti Drew, Malvine Zahratka, Victoria Mowcomber, Kathy Michaels, Kay Clark, Becky Denes, Les Kreeger, Cookie McLoda, Liz Hui.

**Previous Minutes:** Jackie Fedako moved to accept the minutes from the November 19 meeting. Patti Drew seconded. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Les Kreeger reported on behalf of Marilyn Hubbard:

November 20, 2025 – January 28, 2026

Checking: \$14,774.65

CD: \$6,492.52

Total Assets: \$21,267.17

Book Nook for November-January: unknown (the lock on the lock box is broken)

Report was submitted for audit.

**Special Guest Megan Karhusz, Youth Services Manager:** Youth Services Manager Megan Karhusz presented a proposal for the Youth Services department, requesting funding from the Friends to create a "Library of Literacy Tools". Megan was approached by a literacy coach from the Amherst schools a within the last year looking for literacy tools. The library does offer early learning backpacks for preschool age students, but currently does not have literacy tools available for checkout for elementary school age students. Other peer libraries do have these available for teachers, tutors, parents, and homeschool groups. Some examples include the Alphabet Sounds of Teaching Tub set and an Alphabet ARC. Megan presented a list of items that would comprise a full collection of literacy resources, totaling \$2,024.86. Les Kreeger moved to support this proposal in honor of Judy Alexander. Rhonda Neuhoff seconded. Motion carried.

**Correspondence:** The Friends received a thank you from Powers Elementary regarding the 100 Day School Restock items donated.

### **Library Liaison:**

- Becky Denes reported that the library is planning to start a seed library. Alex Vargo, a recently returned staff member, is spearheading this idea. The seed library will be located in the old card catalog on the first floor. Becky noted the library will be looking for volunteers to pack and/or donate seeds, and is hoping to soft-launch by the end of March. The focus will be on local wildflowers, pollinators, veggies, heirloom, etc.
- The March calendar is out. For anyone thinking about downsizing, selling, or buying a home, Jennifer Herron-Underwood will be presenting "The Stuff Conversation: Letting Go Without Guilt" on March 5 and "Navigating the Real Estate Market with Confidence" on March 12.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Auditing:** Kay Clark. No report.

**Author Lunch:** Laurie Laubacher. The author has been chosen for the 2026 luncheon. Jennifer Boresz Engelking is a non-fiction writer who lives in Lake County, and has written about Northeast Ohio history. The luncheon is tentatively targeted to take place on October 15, 2026.

**Book Nook:** Kay Clark. November-December-January's Book Nook proceeds were unknown because the lock on the lock box is broken. Please donate paperbacks if you are able.

Book Sale: Les Kreeger. The spring book sale will be May 7-9. Les noted he would like to think of ways to increase visibility of the sale, perhaps by promoting the seed library and using a spring theme. Liz will create the Facebook event to start publicizing. Becky confirmed the Friends can set up the Community Room after 2:30 on Monday, May 4. Tear down does not need to be completed until 5:00 Tuesday, May 12. Carol Hutner, Sandee Ruth, and Marcia Kubach noted that the Friends received a large book donation from the Amherst Historical Society. We ended up with 5 boxes which were sent to Betterworld. The rest of the books, about 15 boxes, are currently being stored at AHS, due to limited space at the library. We will work with AHS to determine what date we can transport the boxes to the library for sale setup, ideally targeting the afternoon of Monday, May 4.

Budget: Cookie McLoda. Carol Hutner volunteered to work on the budget with Cookie.

Bulletin Board: Angela Cecil. Angela reported that the bulletin board is updated with the reading club book lists.

Bylaws: Cookie McLoda. No report.

Fundraising: Liz Hui. No report.

Kindergarten Reading: Victoria Mowcomber. Victoria is currently researching possible books to be selected for this fall's kindergarten reading. She noted she will likely need to request maintaining the \$1,500 budget.

Membership: Carol Hutner. Carol reported that current membership is at 44 members; we are waiting on renewals.

Nominating: Barb Brown. No report.

100 Day School Restock: Angela Cecil. Angela reported that \$493.34 was spent to restock Powers & Firelands; did not hear from St. Joe's.

Publicity: Liz Hui. The Friends' Facebook followers are up to 554, up from 270 in March 2024. Will start publicizing the spring book sale shortly.

Shredding: Rhonda Neuhoff. Rhonda reported that the Community Shred Day will be held July 11, 2026, 9am-12:00pm.

Sunshine: Kathy Michaels. In January cards were sent to Cookie McLoda & Kathy MacLean. Cards were requested for Marilyn Hubbard, Judy Alexander, & Bill Strohm.

#### Old Business:

- A discussion took place regarding the purchase of community library signage. Signs cost \$150, and the city will install them for us. The ideal places to install signs are at Park Ave & Rte 58 and the intersection of Cleveland St & Spring St. **Les Kreeger** made a motion to purchase two signs. **Victoria Mowcomber** seconded. **Motion carried.**

#### New Business:

- Liz Hui reported receipt of an invitation to attend a Friends of the Library Summit on Saturday, April 18 from 10am-1pm at Avon Lake Public Library. Liz will send the invitation to the members.
- Carol Hutner requested a \$500 budget increase for the book clubs. **Patti Drew** motioned, **Barbara Brown** seconded. **Motion carried.**

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 12:31 PM.

Next Meeting: March 25, 2026 at 11:15 AM