

FRIENDS OF THE AMHERST PUBLIC LIBRARY MEETING

Minutes for April 22, 2026

Called to Order: 11:20 AM

Present: Carol Hutner, Sandee Ruth, Lila Lewis, Rhonda Neuhoﬀ, Patti Drew, Victoria Mowcomber, Kay Clark, Becky Denes, Les Kreeger, Cookie McLoda, Liz Hui.

Previous Minutes: Victoria Mowcomber moved to accept the minutes from the March 25 meeting. Kay Clark seconded. Motion carried.

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

February 26, 2026 – April 22, 2026

Checking: \$15,671.96

CD: \$6,547.83

Total Assets: \$22,210.79

Book Nook for February-April: \$258

Report was submitted for audit.

Correspondence:

Library Liaison:

- We need more blue bags, maybe redesign to make more modern. Last time was 1,000 bags for \$765, that was in April 2025. Les Kreeger motioned to allocate \$1,200 for blue bags, Kay seconded. Motioned carried.
- May calendar is out. There is a ¼ sheet advertising the book sale downstairs, and will also go on the TV screens and Angela will put it on the bulletin board.
- Student art show is up. 150 pieces. Firelands, Amherst, & St Joes. Up through May 9.
- Community art show will follow, starting May 12. Register to have a piece in it. You can register starting May 1.
- Craft swap will be in August this year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Auditing: Kay Clark. No report.

Author Lunch: Laurie Laubacher. No report.

Book Nook: Kay Clark. March's proceeds were \$258.

Book Sale: Les Kreeger. The spring book sale will be May 7-9. Please save boxes and bring them in for the sale. On Monday, May 4, there will be volunteers at the Amherst Historical Society and there will be high school students at the library to help with moving boxes of books to the community room.

Budget: Cookie McLoda. No report. Cookie will increase the budget for blue bags from \$800 to \$1,200.

Bulletin Board: Angela Cecil. No report.

Bylaws: Cookie McLoda. No report.

Fundraising: Liz Hui. Lila Lewis reported on some fundraising ideas from the April 18 Friends Summit. Some ideas include: a shoe drive fundraiser, open mic nights, book-themed escape rooms, story time under the stars, bingo, and charging a fee for book scanners at book sales.

Kindergarten Reading: Victoria Mowcomber. Victoria is currently researching possible books to be selected for this fall's kindergarten reading.

Membership: Carol Hutner. Carol reported that current membership is at 70 members; we are waiting on renewals. From the Friends Summit: some libraries offer a lifetime membership option. Other libraries focus heavily on business memberships; they invite businesses to come in to Friends' meetings to talk about their business. Some libraries provide a membership card that offers discounts at local businesses. Many libraries host fall membership drives with refreshments & a corporate sponsorship.

Nominating: Barb Brown. No report.

100 Day School Restock: Angela Cecil. No report.

Publicity: Liz Hui. The Friends' Facebook followers are up to 559, up from 270 in March 2024. A Facebook event was created event for the book sale & was sent to all the usual media outlets.

Shredding: Rhonda Neuhoff. The Shred Day is scheduled for July 11 and everything is all set. We are ready to start advertising. Liz will create a Facebook event; Becky will provide the graphic.

Sunshine: Kathy Michaels. No report.

Old Business:

- Directional library street signs from Judco were purchased and will be installed by the city.
- Gifts for Library Workers' Day were purchased and distributed.

New Business:

- The Friends weighed pros and cons of whether to participate in Walking on Wednesday this summer, either by hosting our own tent or by displaying Friends' applications on the Library's table.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 12:13 PM.

Next Meeting: May 27, 2026 at 11:15 AM