

Friends of Onondaga Free Library

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

Date: November 5, 2025

Present:

Directors: Sheila Gaudons, Cara Kirkby, Barbara Leigh, Pamela McLaughlin, Susan Parry, Mary Beth Roach, Mary Taylor and Donna Zeolla

Staff: Scott Lipkowitz and Chantal Rothermel

Members: Kathy DeSanctis, Mary Dreiling and Naomi Kissel-Johns

Absent: George Bain and Lore DePalo

There was no meeting in October due to the book sale.

On September 19, George B. renewed our bulk mail permit at the cost of \$370.00, up \$20.00 from last year's cost of \$350.00.

On October 16 a motion was made to spend \$180.00 for Music with Donna B. and \$150.00 for Onondaga Nation People of the Hills to present a dance and culture program for a total of \$330.00 by Mary T., seconded by Donna Z. and approved in an online vote.

On October 4 a motion to spend \$125.00 for a presentation by Historic Oakwood Cemetery Preservation Association was made by Lore D., seconded by B. and approved in an online vote.

The meeting was opened at 1:30PM. The minutes for September were read online. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Barb L., seconded by Donna Z. and approved. There was discussion of charging a nominal fee for some of the programming that Friends' pays for. Most thought that, since we have the money, we should not ask patrons to pay a fee.

Directors Report: Scott L. and Chantal R.

September and October stats are good. Thank you for all the funding for recent programming.

The Nintendo Switch has been purchased and now we would like games for the system. A motion to spend not more than \$500.00 for five digital games for the Nintendo Switch was made by Barb L., seconded by Mary T. and approved.

A motion was made to contribute \$175.00 to the cost of the Holiday Brunch in December was made by Sheila G., seconded by Mary T. and approved.

A motion to spend not more than \$1200.00 for twelve Empire State Passes was made by Mary T. seconded by Sheila G. and approved.

We found a website that charges less for the Palette Lounge Round Stools that Susan Morgan asked us to purchase in September. She will look at the website to be sure it is the item that she wants and get back to us in December.

Treasurer's Report: George B. via E-mail

Attached are the Friends financial reports. Our current checking account balance of \$16,984.71 compares to a balance of \$18,161.01 a year ago, the difference because of gifts to the library this year.

Those gifts to the library, \$22,046.68, already exceed last year's total of \$16,920.85. A year ago, those gifts were \$15,582.52.

The fall used book sale marked the first sale to net more than \$5,000, a total of \$5,077.17. Spring sale net was \$4,630.81, which included cost for new signs. This year's net used book sale income is \$9,707.98, compared to \$7,814.99 last year. One difference is that this year the town didn't charge us for disposal of books in June (and we didn't use the town in the fall). Last year we paid the town \$268.68 to dispose of unsold books at the OCRRA transfer station.

On the other hand, online used book sales this year are \$216.21, compared to \$368.87 a year ago.

Memberships' net this year is \$8,981.93, ahead of last year's \$8,510.90. This net is membership income minus fees we pay PayPal for online memberships.

In September we renewed our commercial liability insurance policy for \$422 (same as 2024) and our bulk mail permit for \$370 (\$350 a year ago).

A reminder that the Net Account Total at the bottom of the Checking report (p. 5) is not the balance in the checking account. The balance is shown just above, the total on the line of the report's last date (10-31-25). The Net Account Total shows we have spent more money (\$24,005.85) than our income (\$19,996.05). The net income is a negative, -\$4,009.80. That's principally because of the increase in gifts to the library this year.

Careful readers will note that the net income and expense totals are different on the Category Summary. That's because categories in which income exceeds expenses are shown as Money In (including their costs), while Money Out shows categories with no income. A category like the Festival of Trees is shown now as Money Out (since it's not generated income yet); in December, the Festival of Trees moves to Money In. Still, the net income on the Category Summary report is the same as on the Checking report, -\$4,009.80.

George

Bylaw Changes: Pam M.

We will not be strictly following Robert's Rule of Order.

We will need a simple majority of Directors votes to approve an item either in a meeting or via e-mail. We are able to do this because the open meeting law does not apply to our group.

We approved the position of IT Coordinator at the March 2025 meeting.

Membership Committee: Kathy D.

The second mailing went out on November 3. All the data received from the first mailing is on the computer.

The same people are giving but they are giving more. We do not get very many new people joining.

The envelopes and labels for next year have been purchased. We will be updating our brochures and asking for a higher minimum gift.

Book Sale Wrap Up: Sue P.

Great news. The two book sales this year have netted the Friends \$9,707.98. The fall sale's net was \$5,077.17, first time we've been over \$5,000 for a sale. Wow!

Spring sale net was \$4,630.81, which included cost for new signs.

I'm attaching PDFs of the category summaries of the last three sales. I don't plan to send them with my financial report tomorrow, so you may as well save them for your records.

Always astonishing what so much volunteer power can accomplish.

thanks  
George

Nate, our Amazon book seller, reported a problem with his scanner accepting books that really aren't worth reselling on Amazon. He returned five boxes of books which we will keep for our next sale.

Luana from the Rescue Mission came on Sunday during free book distribution and took all of our left over books and even the cardboard. She is excited to haul our leftovers away in the future. It was wonderful to know that they will be distributed among the stores rather than going to the Rock Cut facility.

Unfortunately, while we can pay the Town to haul the books away, we can not make charitable contributions for the same service to any organization except Onondaga Free Library. Mary Beth R. and Sue P. did donate to the Rescue Mission in Luana's name for her amazing help.

Festival of Trees: Mary T.

Four trees have been returned. Mary T. will send out a reminder that all trees need to be returned by November 8.

Donna Z. will lend Mary T. a steamer to iron the table cloths.

November 13 is set up. The drawing is December 15. We will ask volunteers to sell tickets in the lobby during library events. Mary T. will send out a list of dates.

Brochures: Barb L.

Barb L. is happy to chair the revision of the brochures. Please send thoughts on updates though Google Drive. Perhaps we can have a section on how much we contribute to certain programs as well as mentioning that our support stays local.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25PM. Our next meeting will be December 3 at 1:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Parry, Secretary