

Friends of the Library Meeting - January 21, 2026 (Community Room)

DRAFT 3

Program: Soup

Meeting called to order at 1:12 pm by President Steve Kankus.

Board Attendance: All present

<u>   </u> x_ Steve Kankus	President	
<u>   </u> x_ Michele Merwarth		Corresponding Secretary
<u>   </u> x_ Lisa Blystone	Treasurer	
<u>   </u> x_ Donna Merchant		Deputy Treasurer
<u>   </u> x_ Domenick Patti	Director	
<u>   </u> x_ Wayne Blann	Co-director	
<u>   </u> x_ Susan Blann	Co-director	

Note: The positions of Vice-President and Recording Secretary are vacant at this time.

Absent: Jackie Smith (Immediate past-president)

- Since the VP position & the recording secretary position were vacant (Ann Hatcher was no longer available), the board decided to revisit its composition, and the following 3 proposals were discussed and motions made:

1) Motion to elect Barbara Crawford to join the board as Recording Secretary, the term to run through the end of this fiscal year. Motion made by [REDACTED]; seconded by [REDACTED]. Motion Passed.

2) Motion to elect Wayne Blann to join the board as Vice-President, the term to run through the end of this fiscal year. Motion made by [REDACTED]; seconded by [REDACTED]. Motion Passed.

3) Motion to elect Susan Blann to join the board as Director, the term to run through the end of this fiscal year. Motion made by [REDACTED]; seconded by [REDACTED]. Motion Passed.

- Recording Secretary's Report:

Motion to accept November 19, 2025 minutes (recorded by Paulette Quinn) as submitted made by [REDACTED]; seconded by [REDACTED]. Motion Passed.

- Membership: As of this meeting, The FOL have 208 members.

- Treasurer's Reports for November & December 2025 presented by the treasurer,

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Lisa. Total monies for: Nov: \$33,848.49 and Dec: \$32,919.09. As of Jan 20, 2026, \$2,428 has been given to MFL. Motion to accept November & December financial reports as submitted made by [REDACTED]; seconded by [REDACTED]. Motion Passed. The Treasurer's Reports are attached.

- Based on a discussion Lisa had with M&T bank, the FOL might want to consider changing our checking account from Non-Profit Checking to M&T Tailored Business Checking. After a discussion, it was decided that additional information was needed & the topic was tabled for the next meeting.

**New Business:**

- Library Funds Request, submitted by Sophia Brandt, for \$3,386 for as follows:
  - Five Astronomy Programs (\$1750)
  - Two- Charlee's Ice-cream Cake decorating programs for children & tweens (\$336)
  - Awesome Art for Adults (\$300)
  - 2026 Rapid reads Collection (\$1,000)
  - Motion to approve funds request as presented was made by [REDACTED]; seconded by [REDACTED]. Motion Passed (Sophia's fund request attached).

Motion to approve funds request as presented was made by [REDACTED]; seconded by [REDACTED]. Motion Passed (Sophia's fund request attached).

Regarding a past fund request of \$3,000, the question was asked if Sophia spent the money on the chairs as requested. Steve will check with Sophia.

- Alyson Esposito has offered to donate stamps/colored papers to the Friends to sell at our Olde Home Days book sale. This was tabled until the next meeting and Barb will contact Alyson for more specifics on her offer.
- Accepting Membership Fees via Website has been tabled until a future meeting. Steve, Michele & Sophia will be meeting with a web designer sometime in February, 2026.
- There is an upcoming volunteer recruiting event sponsored by Marcellus Together at Baltimore Woods. Two sessions will be held: Monday, Jan 26th (5-7pm) & Saturday Jan 31, 2026 (2:30-4:30pm). It offers programs & information to help support the community & get volunteers such as: Community Outreach, Education & Mentorship, Environmental Initiatives, and Event Support and Fundraising. Steve will be attending the Monday evening session.

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- It was suggested that a kick-off our Nomination Committee “Formation & Change” be formed earlier than it has been in the past. Along with asking the MFL staff to suggest possible candidates, Steve Kankus, Michele Merwarth, Holly Gang, & Susan Blann agreed to be on the committee.
- Summary of Survey Results: Although the specifics of the responses were not discussed, Steve was happy with the number of FOL members who responded to the survey (59).
- Discussion on proposed reorganization: Steve will be drafting the duties of the FOL Board Of Directors. Therefore, there will also be proposed changes to the FOL bylaws at a later date and before any vote occurs.
- February is Library Lovers Month. The Friends will not be doing anything to promote it. It will be up to the Library should they choose to do anything.
- Jackie Smith (Past President) has decided to stand down from being chairperson of our Basket Raffle. After a discussion, and unless someone comes forward to chair the event, it was decided that we would not have an Olde Home Days Basket Raffle for 2026.

To do list:

- Lisa will get more information from M&T bank regarding the different checking account fees, and if the savings account money is included or a separate entity.
- Steve will check with Sophia about an earlier fund request of \$3,000 & how the money was spent.
- Barb will check with Alyson Esposito about her offer to donate stamps/colored paper to The Friends.

Upcoming Events:

The next FOL Business Meeting is February 18 @ 1:00 pm- 2:00 pm. (followed by a social hour)

The next MFL Board Meeting is Jan 27, 5:45 pm to 7:45 pm.

Steve adjourned the meeting at 2:35 pm. Motion was made by [REDACTED]; seconded by [REDACTED]. Motion Passed.

Submitted by : Barbara Crawford, Recording Secretary