

Friends of Delaware Libraries

Board Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2025 (via Zoom)-Approved 2/9/2026

Attendees: Vivian Erickson, Tiffany Lydon, Marlene Biddinger, Kay Bowes, Mary Chute, Skip Dye, Sue Gooden, Theo Loppatto

Meeting Summary

Quick recap

The group's first order of business was focusing on organizational steps linked to new office holders and duties. They discussed plans to increase membership fees across different categories while planning a membership renewal push before the fee changes take effect. These actions will necessitate updating documentation and brochures. They discussed possible fundraising initiatives, including grant seeking. Other topics included meeting logistics: proposed quarterly schedules for county meetings; and for a quarterly FoDL newsletter; the need to balance in-person and virtual meetings; along with plans for the upcoming January agenda focusing on marketing strategies, and practical support for libraries and other "Friends" groups individually and in collaborative ventures.

Secretary's Report

- FoDL October 13, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes Presented by Theo Loppatto —
Approved
- Annual Meeting – November 10, 2025 – Past practice has been that there were not official 'Minutes' of Annual meetings. For this past 2025 meeting Theo and Mary Chute submitted Informal documentation of this meeting.

Treasurer's Report

- Presented by the incoming Treasurer, Sue Gooden, who has been dealing with numerous formalities regarding transition regarding contact person. *(Sue's hard work was acknowledged).*

Old Business

- This section of the meeting included brief follow up on earlier suggested topics such as sending questionnaires to the various Friends groups' presidents, formatting of budget,

and the potential for online payments. No decisions were made – but the discussions will continue.

- Facebook Admin discussion was deferred to a future meeting.

New Business / Next steps

- All: Review current brochure before next meeting and make notes on any potential changes
- All: Think about potential program topics/offerings for county meetings and be prepared to discuss at January meeting
- All: Consideration of a quarterly Newsletter that would enhance FoDL presence, networking & provide means of promoting awareness of us. We could aid in the sharing of info from local Friends groups with each other

Summary

Membership Fee Increase Discussion

The group discussed increasing their membership fees. They decided to formally vote on this increase at their January meeting and planned a membership push in February to encourage current members to renew before the price increase. They also discussed the need to update their membership brochures to reflect the new pricing.

Fundraising Initiatives and Grant Opportunities

The group discussed several fundraising initiatives. They agreed to review their brochure and consider changes to the donation form. The group also discussed grant opportunities, deciding to pursue both local and statewide grants while maintaining a balance between supporting individual friends groups and facilitating statewide initiatives.

Annual Meeting Minutes Discussion

The group discussed the annual meeting summary and minutes. Creating minutes of the annual meeting is required by our bylaws. The agenda can be used as an outline. The group agreed to avoid attributing specific comments or ideas to individuals unless necessary.

Quarterly Schedule and Zoom Logistics

The group discussed external meeting logistics, proposing a quarterly schedule where 3 county meetings would be held in specific blocks (Q1, Q2, Q3, or Q4) with an annual in-person meeting taking place during the remaining quarter. The group acknowledged technical difficulties

experienced during recent Zoom meetings, and agreed to implement regular Zoom updates and clearer expectations for participation. It was pointed out that one of the potential benefits of the Zoom meetings is the option of an AI meeting summary. (At that point in this meeting the function was turned on and that summary has been utilized in this document.) It was agreed to balance in-person and virtual meetings in order to accommodate all members.

Library Marketing and Support Strategies

The group discussed topics for the January agenda, which will focus on various communication and marketing strategies and providing practical support to libraries and their friends groups. They emphasized the need to offer tangible services, while also fostering collaboration and networking opportunities among libraries' Friends groups. It was agreed that the strategic plan and advancing its goals and objectives will be a recurring agenda item for future discussions.

Suggested Agenda items for next meeting

Budget
Knowledge transfer / history
Advancing Strategic Plan initiatives
Marketing ideas
Fundraising
Membership brochure
Membership drive timeline, etc.
Quarterly Newsletter/Update
Quarterly county meetings and potential topics

Upcoming Meetings

Monday, January 12, 2026 – Zoom
Monday, February 9, 2026 – Zoom
***Monday, March 9, 2026 – Zoom (**indefinite due to 3/12/26 Legislative Day)*
Thursday, March 12, 2026 – Legislative Day – Dover