Minutes
Friends of the Georgetown Peabody Library
June 3, 2026

Present: Mary Saunders, Amy Smith, Regina Tracy, Renata Zeneviciute. Directors: Kristin Lund, Kathy Urner-Jones, Stephen Veiga, Joy Viele. Friends: Katie Jones, Liane Small, Larry Jones. Library Director: Sarah Cognata
The meeting was held on Zoom. Mary Saunders called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Reports
Minutes: Amy moved the minutes of the May meeting be accepted. Kathy seconded. Voted unanimously.

Financial Report: Renata reported that May saw annual appeal income of $500 and an additional $200 in cannister donations. Income totals $700 and there are expenses of $1029, leaving a deficit of $329 for the month. We can anticipate summer reading program expenses. Kathy moved the report be accepted and Stephen seconded. Voted unanimously.

Fundraising: Stephen reported that Tom Falzareno will assist with the listening sessions for the upcoming mini campaign. Tom has some lessons to share from the last capital fundraising initiative. He and Stephen suggested a committee be established to oversee the process. The committee includes Kathy, Stephen, Regina, Sarah, and Cathy DeWitt. They are charged with developing the strategic plan.

Library Director's Report: Sarah reported the email transition will begin this month. In preparation, Kristin will activate the GPL Friends Google Workspace account to prepare for two-step verification.

New Business

Database**:** Larry Jones (husband of Kathy Urner-Jones) presented the new database he has developed for the Friends. He has a background as a systems analyst. He addressed several areas that needed improvement:

- Security- the database will live on the Microsoft Cloud server. Access to the various functions will be restricted according to role.
- Mac users will now be able to access the database with the same functionality. There are no constraints as to how many people may use the database at the same time.

- The software is free, but it is limited to 27 hours a month of usage. Larry is working on a plan that will provide a way to transition to another "bucket" if that limit is reached but thinks that 27 hours will be suitable for our needs.
- The system will generate files formatted to Zeffy specifications for subsequent, easy loading into Zeffy.
- Data can be exported into Excel spreadsheets for offline data analysis by the user or for subsequent loading into some other application or system (e.g., a future purchased CRM database).

Attendees were very enthusiastic about the new database and capabilities. Larry contributed his time to develop this for the Friends. He was thanked for the great work he did. Regina made the motion that we accept and use the new database. Amy seconded. Voted unanimously.

New Treasurer: Renata is relocating to FL for family reasons. We thanked her for her terrific work and said how sorry we were to lose her. Stephen may have a candidate. Depending on the candidate's interest, Kristin will put a notice on social media that the Friends are seeking a new treasurer.

There were questions about whether we can appoint someone to the position on an ongoing basis, or if they would hold the position temporarily until annual meeting. Stephen said we should consult the bylaws and all agreed. Renata will remain available until July 20. Ideally, we would like to find someone in time for her to train. The treasurer's email address can be transferred to the new treasurer.

September Book Sale: Amy will prepare the slips to be handed out, basing them on the model the Newburyport Friends used for their sale.

Zoom Meetings: There was discussion about holding all board meetings on Zoom. Many liked the efficiency, and it was also agreed it could be a positive in bad weather. Katie felt that an in-person provides incentive to attend, and Stephen enjoys the community. There are also people who might want to attend who do not Zoom. Zoom can be awkward for newcomers. There was some question whether meetings could take place on Zoom, and a computer set up in the library to accommodate walk-ins. But such a hybrid model presents auditory challenges that an all-Zoom meeting does not. No decision was reached. It was agreed that we should share the responsibility of setting up the Zoom meeting and Kristin will train us at an upcoming meeting.

July Meeting: Several people cannot attend the July 1 meeting. We are tentatively holding July 8th for a meeting if one is needed. It is the same evening as one of the summer concerts, but

that is not a concern as concerts will be canceled instead of being relocated inside the library. Kathy will preside in Mary's absence.

Memorial Bench: At the time of the meeting, the bench for Betty Hastings had not been installed. The installation has since been completed.

Summer Events: Joy reported her contact with a food truck who is interested in attending. All agreed its presence would assist in attracting attendees. There was some question as to whether they need a permit, but Sarah does not believe one is required.

Nominating Committee: Liane Small will chair the committee. Mary suggested Diane Hamer and Peggy Rice as additional members and asked for their emails so she could contact them. Kathy will send that information to Mary. Kristin will also post that we are looking for anyone interested in board service. Liane requested that all those with terms expiring in October send her an email with their intention to continue or not, as well as a description of their duties.

There was a brief discussion about Annual Meeting speakers. Amy suggested an update on the state of libraries in general with someone from MVLC or the National Library Association.

The annual meeting has usually taken place on a Saturday morning. It was suggested that we meet on an evening and have a wine and cheese reception for Friends members (we would need a liquor permit). There is interest in this idea and it will be discussed further.

Update: Mary Saunders shared calling hours and funeral arrangements for Paul Janson (Mary Janson's husband). Mary moved the Friends spend $150 on an arrangement. Regina seconded but amended the motion so up to $200 could be spent if necessary. Passed unanimously. She asked Sarah if Paul's books (he has written 17) could be displayed and available for check out. The library only owns two. It is unknown if Mary J. could provide others.

Regina moved the meeting adjourn. Kathy seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28.
July 8 is a tentative hold for the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Tracy