Minutes
Friends of the Georgetown Public Library
August 5, 2026

Present: Officers: Mary Saunders, Regina Tracy, Katie Jones (Interim Treasurer). Directors: Kathy Urner-Jones, Kristin Lund, Joy Viele. Liane Small, Nominating Committee. Library Director: Sarah Cognata.

Mary Sanders called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

Reports:
Minutes: Kristin Lund moved the June 2026 minutes be accepted as submitted. Kathy Urner-Jones seconded. Passed unanimously. (There was no July 2026 meeting).
Treasurer's Report: Katie noted income in June was $166 and in July the appeal received $75 and $96 from the Book Nook. There were multiple expenses, due to the costs of summer programming. Kathy moved the June and July reports be accepted as presented. Kristin seconded. Voted unanimously.

Mary thanked Katie for stepping in as treasurer.

Fundraising Report: Kathy reported that while fundraising was modest last month, we are tracking well against 2024 (not using 2025 because Books in Bloom took place). We have the same number of donors (131) at this point in the year, as compared to 131 at the end of 2024. There are approximately 22 people who gave last year, but have not contributed to date. They will receive a personalized letter inviting them to give, and discussing the upcoming annual meeting, to encourage them to give. Regina will prepare a first draft of such a letter and send it to Kathy, Kristin and Mary for editing. Kristin can send letters out either by Zeffy or by mail. Kathy said it would be good to develop consistent language regarding messaging, so everyone understands we have moved away from a membership model. Now, anyone who gives is a Friend.

Director's Report: Sarah reported a jump in summer reading participants among children, crediting the local schools' help in getting word out about the program. 3 museum passes are up for renewal. Packing up the adult section (due to recent water damage) should begin the week of August 24. There were questions whether the repair work would adversely impact the 2027 Books in Bloom. Even if it is still ongoing at that time, the damaged area can be sectioned off, and the event can continue.

We will need a chair for Books in Bloom and it is hoped Gloria Swanbon will consult with that person. Kristin suggested Shauna Laspina would be an excellent chair.

Kristin can provide copies of some of the books lost and she will consult with Olivia on replacing them. This list should be shared with the Book Nook and Book Sale, so those staffing these initiatives can be on the lookout for any replacement volumes.

Nominating Committee: Liane does not yet have a candidate for treasurer. Rich Coco and Linda Corcoran have expressed interest in joining the board. Bradford Rusick was suggested as a good candidate. Kristin has sent out notices on social media about board vacancies.

New Business:

Zoom Security: Kristin reported that all will be trained on running a Zoom session. She suggests signing in with the library password and becoming familiar with Zoom, prior to training. When the library switched to a new friends' email, two factor identification is required. This presents a problem as only one phone number can be used. Kristin proposed we forego two factor authentication. When someone logs in, Kristin will get a notice. While there is some risk that someone could obtain library financial information from our Zoom account, it was agreed that information is usually coded in some way (e.g., showing only the last 4 digits of a credit card number).

Kristin did not believe the risk was great. Regina recommended that we proceed with Zoom training without requiring two factor identification. Mary seconded. Voted unanimously. Kristin will get back to the board with training times.

Listening Session: Kathy reported that 14 guests are attending the first listening session outlining the proposed children's room renovation. This will take place August 17th from 6 to 7. Sarah has prepared a terrific Power Point. Other sessions may be scheduled for those who were interested, but unable to participate on the 17th.

Book Sale: Mary reported the book sale committee needs to meet. She liked Amy's design for a promotional slip with all sale information, but had her add a book drop-off date. We would hand these out year-round, with information on spring and fall sales.

Annual Meeting: This will take place on Wednesday, October 7. All spoke to the need of attracting a larger audience. It was decided to adjust the time to 6:30 to 8:00, in the hope this will allow more people to have dinner and come. To that end, we will keep the business meeting

(election) to 15-20 minutes, offer refreshments and time for socializing with others, and focus on content. Content should include a presentation on the impact the Friends have had this year, and an interesting speaker. Suggestions for speakers included authors with recent books about Bigfoot (in New England settings), local historian Chris Comisky, to discuss storied Georgetown houses (perhaps with a Halloween twist), romance author, Betty Cayouette. We also discussed developing a special "mocktail" for the evening, and awarding a door prize.

Ms. Cayouette may be too expensive, and the romance genre may only appeal to some readers. Mary will talk with Chris Comisky to see if she is interested. Refreshments will be seasonal (crackers and cheese, apple cider donuts, cider were all suggested). We will not serve wine as that requires a license and server. UPDATE: Chris Comisky is unavailable. Sarah sent the board a list of prospective programs.

While outreach will make clear as the by-laws require, this is an annual meeting, we will refer to it as the "Friends Fall Gathering." A schedule might look something like this:
6:00 Refreshments
6:15 Welcome
6:30 Meeting
6:50 Friends Impact
7:00 Lecture and Q and A
7:45 Door Prize Drawing

We should also send a Save the Date and publicize the meeting through the newsletter, website and social media when details are firm.

Kathy moved we adjourn at 7:21 PM. Regina seconded. Passed unanimously. **The next meeting of the Friends of the GPL will take place on Wednesday, September 2 at 6:00 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Tracy
Secretary