Friends of the Republic Library Board Minutes
February 18, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 11:08 am by President Diane Engleking
Board Members present: Diane Engleking; Cynthia Bonneau-Green; Arwen Woolley; Emily Burt; Cherie Gorton; Katherine Meade; Patrice Beckwith; Scott Powers; Christina Beckwith; Julia Hershberger; Leslie Tietsort; Tina Smith
Board Members absent: Mary Ciais. NOTE: Marna Friend has resigned from the board
Librarian present: Lilly Rice

Minutes: Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the January 21, 2026 board meeting were unanimously approved.
Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the Audit Committee dated January 21, 2026 were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Arwen gave the Treasurer's Report as of 1/31/2026 (refer to financial reports). The summary is as follows: Note: balances are as of 1/31/2026:
Building Fund Savings – $62,057.72
Building Fund Checking: $5,000.00
STCU Checking: $3,857.27
STCU Savings: $2,487.88
Income/Expense:
Grant Income $0
Contributions: $35.00
Membership dues: $110.00
Misc. Income: $0
Interest Income: $8.43
Total Income: $153.43
Total Expenses: $505.75
Net Income (loss): $(352.32)

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.
A lengthy discussion was had regarding the best way to help Arwen identify the nature of expenses incurred for library programs, etc. The policy was established that receipts will be required with a notation of what was purchased and signed by the purchaser.
Another discussion was had regarding establishing a quarterly budget for Buffy to cover all programming needs. Buffy will be asked to make a recommendation to the board at the March meeting. In addition, as part of Buffy's monthly report to the board, she will update the board on quarterly expenses vs budget. The board approved the amazon purchases by Diane for programming supplies. Such purchases will be allocated to Buffy's first quarterly budget.

Building Subcommittee Update:
Emily gave the update.
Site prep: FORL will be responsible for the NEPA(environmental) portion of the site prep expense. The Building Committee has recommended FORL engage Ecological Land Services. Emily reported the contract will be approximately $9,000. (Estimated). She said that Nick (City Clerk) thought this was an appropriate estimate for the services to be provided. He also told Emily this is not the type of service that requires FORL to go out for bids.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the board unanimously approved the following: upon review and approval by the Legal Review Committee, Diane is authorized to execute the NEPA contract on behalf of FORL. As part of the legal review process, Emily will request company information and references.

Emily also reported that representatives from the Governor's office will be touring the site on March 5th.
Emily said the MOU with NCW is being updated to include the City.

President's Update:
Diane reported on the zoom call on 2/3/26 with a friends sharing group. She said that so many of the friends groups are struggling. She will update members on future call dates.
Membership dues are due for any board members who do not have lifetime memberships.

Librarian's Update:
Lilly updated the board on various activities: the winter reading program logged over 1,400 books read. A great success. She reported the CCTV reader is now working and also reported on the success of the partnership with Feeding Ferry County.
Lilly brought up the need for 1) spring carpet cleaning, and 2) power washing and repainting spaces in the parking lot. Lilly will check with Spring Clean on the cost of carpet cleaning. She will schedule cleaning for May 23, contingent on board approval of the cost. Lilly will check with Sharon on the cost for the parking lot cleaning and painting.

Old Business:
Upon discussion, the tie dye event at the brewery will be scheduled on Tuesday, August 11. The brewery will supply the t shirts. A minimum donation of $30. will be asked. A separate table on FORL merchandise will be available for the tie-dye event.
Conservation Fair: Cherie has reserved the booth. She suggested having a library project display as well as some FORL merchandise for sale.
Tina Smith has submitted the quarterly project update letter to the View to be published in this week's paper.

New Business:
Catherine gave an update on the May Day event. She will provide a more detailed report at the March meeting.

The board was advised that Web Radish is closing in early 2027.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:09 pm.
The next meeting of the Board will be on Wednesday, March 18th - 11:00am at the library.

Cynthia Bonneau-Green, Secretary

Exhibits: Treasurer's Report; and Building Committee Minutes are retained in the FORL master files.