

Friends of the Russell Library Minutes
Executive Committee Meeting
January 8, 2026
Russell Library Annex Building

Present: Sandy Becker, Makiko Shinjo, Cathy Boone, Laura Taft,
Jeff Dickey-Chasins, Christina Trier, and Tisha Ferguson

Recorder: Tisha Ferguson

Call to Order 10:00 AM

Approval of agenda, with additions of outreach and newsletter reports
Approval of December 2025 minutes

President's Report

- The approved book sale dates for 2026 are: March 27-28, June 12-13, September 11-12.
- The monthly lunch at a downtown spot for sorters and volunteers will be on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, from 11:30-12:45. The next one will be held this month, on January 21st, at Brew Bakers.
- An acquaintance of Laura's has forwarded an offer of a modern poetry collection, which will be arriving on Saturday, Jan. 10th in the morning. Volunteers will be on hand to accept it.

Outreach

- There are 3 monthly lobby tabling days scheduled in January, February and March. Two 'table sitter' volunteers have signed up for each event. Jeff will be sure that volunteers are familiar with the 'how-to's', and arrange for the supplies, etc.

Newsletter

- The next issue will go out about two weeks prior to the March book sale. Ideas for new content include member interviews, photos and notes from the library history vault (on the website), history of the Friends. Mack volunteered to try to get in touch with some of the Friends past members. Another idea is a survey, to let members share their ideas and thoughts. Possibly a 'share your story' feature.
- Content from the Executive Committee members should be sent to Tisha by March 1st.

Treasurer's Report

- 135 membership renewal letters were mailed out, and approximately 50% have renewed so far. There was discussion about the tracking of dues payment dates.
- Discussion continued about using Zeffe Software vs. Paypal and /or Square for both membership dues, the Book Nook, and book sales. The comparative fees, ease of use, and buyer's comfort with the software were the issues. The decision was made to stay with our current PayPal and Square methods of accepting payment.
- The current Square device is no longer supported, and the decision was made to replace it with a new one before the March book sale.
- The decision was made to recommend to the Finance Committee that the Friends' annual contribution to the library this year be increased.

Discussion and new business

- Discussion of ways to increase sales, at the Book Nook and at the big book sales, and to advertise special collections. Are there alternatives to BookSaleFinder, or other places to list our sales? Other ways to find buyers for special collections?

Action items

- Tisha will work on the next newsletter.
- Jeff will organize the tabling volunteers and setup.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00AM

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 5, 2026, 10:00 AM, Russell Library Annex Building

Respectfully submitted,
Tisha Ferguson