

Board members in **Attendance** were Christian Mash, Fred Fox, Alison Rudy-Sweitzer via Zoom, Karen Malecki, and Clint Bradley. Nancy Brady arrived subsequently at 4:08pm. Staff members present were Thomas Vose, Library Director; Nicole McCullough, Executive Assistant; Melissa Custer, Friendsville Branch Manager; and Glenda Lane, Library Associate.

Christian Mash called the **Meeting to Order** at 4:05 pm.

The Trustees reviewed the **Meeting Minutes** from March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Fred moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Karen. The motion passed unanimously.

The Trustees reviewed the **Financial Statements** for the period ending April 2025. Thomas initiated a discussion regarding the preferred presentation format for the financial statements. Following a brief discussion, the Board agreed to review the prior month's financial statements to reflect income and expenses as incurred. Thomas reported that expenditures were at 74.53% of the budget and tracking as expected. The Board moved to table the acceptance of the April financial statements until the May meeting. Karen inquired about the status of the expected budget. Thomas indicated that the State's budget had passed and included the Friendsville capital grant. While official notification of state library funding was pending, initial indications were positive. Regarding the possibility of federal funding cuts, Thomas stated that the library was not significantly impacted. He shared a flyer from the state library detailing the use of federal funds in Maryland, noting that \$10,000 allocated for professional training directly affected the library. Although these funds are still currently available, a temporary freeze had been suggested. Thomas did not anticipate a significant financial threat to the library from either federal or state funding.

The **Director's Report** was reviewed. Thomas reported on his community outreach activities, which included a well-attended Garrett County Health and Wellness Fair (384 attendees), a St. Patrick's Day event at Our Town Theater, and a breakfast for the Greater Oakland Business Association. Ryan Williams represented the library at the Judy Center Baby Shower. Thomas noted that several staff members participated in a well-received book repair class by Cat Tail Run Bindery, and Jenna produced a yard sign for distribution to patrons to promote library support. Thomas also mentioned that the Friends of the Library are sponsoring a Shred Day for patrons and events for National Library Week. All branches reported active months with numerous programs and activities. Melissa reported that the Culinary Connections Cookbook Club focused on "Appetizers and Hors d'oeuvres" in March and "Mystery Spices" in April. She added that STEAM Kids, Lego Club, and school partnerships were progressing well.

**Old Business** was discussed:

- *Planned Giving Committee*- Christian reported that while the committee has not convened recently, they plan to schedule a meeting in the near future. Thomas provided an update on his fundraising efforts, noting a potential partnership with the Town of Friendsville during Friendsville Days, with possible events including a Color Run or Duck Race. Additionally, Thomas suggested exploring the issuance of naming rights for spaces within the new Friendsville Library as a future fundraising opportunity for further discussion. The future direction of the Planned Giving Committee was discussed by the group. Thomas underscored the need to maintain the distinct character of the Friends while establishing a foundation. Christian proposed a future event similar to the college's "President's Circle" event. He explained that these events provide donors with insight into fund allocation and firsthand involvement, offering a preview and VIP experience related to the impact of their gifts. Finally, Thomas reported that the DCL 100th Anniversary Committee had requested the group's involvement in the summer celebration, which Thomas suggested would be an excellent opportunity to promote planned giving.
- *Friendsville Updates*- Thomas provided an update on the Friendsville construction, noting that although the site is currently a muddy area, the footers should be poured shortly, weather permitting. Thomas indicated that

the FY25 earmark funding from Senator Van Hollen has expired and unfortunately will not come to fruition. Thomas indicated that the target opening date for the Friendsville Branch is early December. The Board discussed a commemorative item to mark the occasion, with wooden ornaments suggested as a potential option.

**New Business** was discussed:

- *Secretary and Treasurer positions*- Christian reported that Linda's resignation from the board in December 2024 and Tina's impending term expiration will result in vacancies for the Secretary and Treasurer positions. He indicated that Karen's experience and current position as Tina's backup make her the most logical choice, and she has expressed interest in the Treasurer role. With no other members expressing interest in volunteering, the discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
- *MCEA Visit*- Thomas reported on a visit to the Oakland branch by the Maryland Classified Employee Association, during which they spoke with interested employees. He confirmed that the library was in compliance with all aspects during this visit.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 4:00pm at the Grantsville Branch.

Nancy made a motion to **Adjourn the Regular Meeting** at 5:03pm, seconded by Fred. The motion carried.

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Nicole McCullough.