

## **Meeting of the Friends of the Florida Public Library Minutes of September 9, 2019**

Meeting called to order by Vice President Shirley Coughlin @ 6:34 PM

Members Present: Bob Scott, Nancy Scott, Shirley Coughlin, Terri Gott, Ann Marie Kowalczyk, Mary McNally, Bob Persing, Diane Arcieri, Laura Fernandez, Heather Birch, Madelyn Folino

### **Officers' Reports:**

Secretary: The group reviewed the minutes of the last meeting. Madelyn made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Terri. Motion passed.

Treasurer: Terri provided the report for August. The current balance is \$1,610.81. Shirley accepted the report which will be filed for audit.

Director: Madelyn started the discussion by thanking the Friends for their past sponsorship of various library programs. She continued with these items:

- There are no new requests for funding this month.
- September 28<sup>th</sup> is the 61<sup>st</sup> Anniversary weekend of the Library. Cake will be served to celebrate during the Black Dirt Story Telling Festival.
- The RCLS/OLA Friends Gathering will be held at the new Goshen Library on September 23, from 5:30 – 8 pm. It is open to all Friends groups in the area and is a great opportunity to discuss mutual topics of interest. A tour of the library is on the agenda.
- The planning of the fall programs is in full swing. Check out what's coming up on the library's web site.
- Focus Groups to discuss the 5 year long-range plan will be starting on Sept 22. Diane will be leading the group meetings. The Friends are encouraged to attend a meeting to hear what is on the mind of the community. Register on the library web site. The last meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. is an open meeting. Also, there will be at least one library trustee at each meeting.
- Friends are encouraged to continue to advocate for the library. "Lobby" day takes place at the end of February/March. A concentrated effort is made to persuade legislators to fund local libraries. NYLA provides form letters that can be forwarded to legislators to vote for library support.
- A page position is open to help at the library during evenings. A motivated 16+ year old teenage volunteer is being sought.
- The Florida Library is partnering with the Florida Community Food Pantry regarding "The Great Give Back" during the month of October. An item specific list has been prepared. Programs during the month will be matched to specific items and will be requested from attendees. There will be drop-off boxes in the library for anyone wanting to participate.

Vice President: None

President: None

Trustee: Nancy indicated that the monthly meeting was being held immediately following the Friends' meeting. Diane said that the search for a replacement executive director of RCLS was finally coming to a close. Grace Riario, the interim director, is the lead candidate with a clear vision of a path for the organization to take in the future. Only two additional steps for finalizing this choice are about to be completed.

### **Old Business:**

At Madelyn's request, Terri reiterated the success of the Friends' booth at Fun Fest. It was good to have a library employee there to assist in answering questions.

### **New Business:**

Bob resumed chairing the meeting. These items were discussed:

- Due to several member conflicts, the October meeting was rescheduled to Monday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>. Nancy made the motion, seconded by Terri, and passed.
- Encouragement to attend the RCLS/OLA meeting on Sept 23 was iterated.
- The Used Book Sale will be taking place on Oct. 24 – 27<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet to help out was passed around. "Muscles" are especially needed on Thursday evening to transport books from the library to the senior center.
- Welcome to Heather Birch, our newest member of the Friends.
- It is time for annual membership renewal. Forms were passed out to attending members, and dues collected. Forms will be mailed soon to all members. Payment is requested in October.
- Bob read a letter from Madelyn about the Focus meetings. See the library web site for more information and to register.

### **Open Discussion Items:**

- Madelyn asked the group if we wanted to have a cooking program as part of our November meeting. This has been an enjoyable tradition each year. Laura suggested that there are a variety of authors that weave recipes into their stories. Maybe we could choose one as a theme – "food for thought"! Marie and Laura will work on some ideas.

Shirley made a motion to adjourn at 7:17, seconded by Diane. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Marie Kowalczyk, Secretary