

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

Meeting called to order by President Bob Scott @ 6:02 PM

Members Present: Bob Scott, Nancy Scott, Shirley Coughlin, Dot Kimiecik, Ann Marie Kowalczyk, Mary McNally, Terri Gott, Laura Fernandez, Madelyn Folino

### **Officers' Reports:**

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

**Treasurer:** Terri reviewed the expenses and deposits for November. The ending balance was \$2,225.68. Bob accepted the report which will be filed for audit.

**Director:** Madelyn discussed the following items:

- Programs for the year were coming to an end next week. The second week of January will usher in the start of the 2020 programs.
- Important 2020 dates to keep in mind:
  - February 25<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is the Annual NYLA Advocacy Day, when advocates go to Albany to speak with state legislators about voting for library funding. Whenever there is a budget gap, library funding often suffers. The importance of convincing legislators that libraries have a critical educational impact on the welfare of communities cannot be overstated. Friends are urged to attend. RCLS provides a bus from Newburgh (\$5/person) for the event.
  - April 16<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is the date of the Florida library budget vote. Work is currently being done on the budget.
- Thanks to everyone who provided Christmas presents for the adopted family. The response was overwhelming and much appreciated.
- One funding request - renew the Empire Pass (carload admission to NY State parks) that is expiring. Meg renewed the pass online at the reduced rate of \$65.

**Vice President:** No report at this time.

**President:** No report at this time.

**Trustee:** Per Nancy, work on the budget is underway. At the Trustee meeting later tonight, a representative will answer questions regarding the recent clean library audit.

**Correspondence:** Letters, emails, etc., received in the last month include:

- Thank you note from Barron Angell for sponsoring his attendance at the annual NYLA conference.

- Anita Baumann, President of the RCLS Board of Trustees, asked that Friends' groups consider giving donations to help defer the cost of chartering the buses that will be going to Albany on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> for the NLYA Library Advocacy Day 2020.
- Sarah Taylor, a fellow Friend, had some suggestions for the "Specialized Used Book Sales" discussed last month. She also offered to help. Bob will contact her. (Secretary "side note": These good ideas will be added to the list. Thanks, Sarah!)
- Madelyn asked the Friends to reimburse Meg for the online renewal of the Empire Pass.

**Old Business:** Discussion continued on the "Specialized Used Book Sales". Suggestions mentioned include: 1-Call the sales "Pop-Up Sales", 2-Price as "Buy one, Get One, 3-Advertise with a flyer that shows a recipe or excerpt from a book, 4-Bundle like books as a deal, 5-Create a package, e.g., cookbook with a key recipe and some ingredients, 6-Have a class on upcycling unsold books, 7-Schedule with summer reading program or earlier in year (weather permitting, with date flexibility), 8-Do something with the plates. (Secretary "side note": An ongoing worksheet of suggestions will be maintained apart from the monthly minutes.)

**New Business:** Nancy made a motion to refund Meg in the amount of \$65 for renewing the Empire Pass. Terri seconded the motion, which was then passed by the group.

**Open Discussion Items:** None

Nancy made a motion to adjourn at 6:29, seconded by Terri. Motion passed. Everyone then gathered around the holiday cookie table to enjoy goodies and lively conversation.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Marie Kowalczyk, Secretary