

Meeting of the Friends of the Florida Public Library Minutes of January 13, 2020

Meeting called to order by President Bob Scott @ 6:32 PM

Members Present: Bob Scott, Nancy Scott, Shirley Coughlin, Dot Kimiecik, Ann Marie Kowalczyk, Mary McNally, Terri Gott, Diane Arcieri, Karen Thomas, Bob Persing, Pitso Mafata, Madelyn Folino

Officers' Reports:

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

Treasurer: Terri reviewed the December report. There was one expense, resulting in an ending balance of \$2,160.68. Bob accepted the report which will be filed for audit.

Director: Madelyn led the discussion on the following items:

- The board approved the library budget. There is less than a 3% increase over 2019. Nancy will be running for re-election to the board. Everyone who is a member of the Florida Union Free School District is encouraged to vote. Staff would like to see an increase in the number of absentee voters, particularly college students. Voting will take place on Thurs., April 16th, from 9 am to 9 pm at the library. Lawn signs will be available to advertise the vote.
- Senator Jan Metzger provided a \$2,000 grant that will be used towards a "tool library". Patrons will be able to check out items for their personal use. Programs to use some of the more complex items are being planned for the spring.
- A carload of employees will be attending the Annual NYLA Advocacy Day on February 25th. For anyone interested, buses leaving from the Newburgh mall are available (\$5/person). Diane went into a little more detail as to what to expect when in Albany. RCLS makes an appointment for each group (e.g., FPL supporters). The group meets with legislators, and individuals tell their story as to what the library does, the impact on community members, etc. Please consider attending. The underlying goal is to provide a visual representation showing "strength in numbers" in support of funding our libraries across the state.
- Thanks to Pitso for giving a donation to fund refreshments at the next Poetry Café being hosted at the library on Feb. 15th.
- Funding Requests :
 - Robert Milby as emcee of the Poetry Café on 2/15/20. Cost - \$200.
 - While researching the "Tool Library", Madelyn came up with a list of other items patrons might wish to check-out. Included were: Coffee urn (45 cup), Instant canopy tent, Telescopic fishing pole with bag (adult), Telescopic fishing pole with tackle box and bag (child) for a total of \$160.96. Bob suggested that a tent with straight legs might be more practical at a slightly higher cost. Others agreed.

Vice President: No report at this time.

President: No report at this time.

Trustee: Per Nancy, the board passed the budget. Regarding the long range plan, Meg and Diane are meeting with Madelyn. The plan is a work-in-progress, with a goal of being on the May agenda. Diane was asked about signing up for Advocacy Day. Register on-line at rcls.org, approximately 10 days ahead of time. Parking at the Newburgh mall is safe.

Correspondence: None to report.

Old Business:

- The suggestion worksheet for “Pop-Up Used Book Sales” was reviewed. Since the library normally closes at 5pm on Fridays, the group agreed to piggy-back on the April 17th Poetry Café to move books out of the basement before 7 pm. Prior to that day, volunteers will have access to the basement to sort and pack books to be sold. Bob will check on Senior Center availability. (4/17 + 4/18). It was suggested that RCLS be asked about groups that might want the unsold books.
- Diane suggested that we brainstorm about other fundraising ideas. She mentioned that the NYLA Friends have “fabric/yarn/related books” sales.
- The next regular Used Book Sale is scheduled for May 14th – 17th. One thought was to have an Antique Appraisal on the Sat-Sun of the sale. People could bring X number of items to be appraised for a fee.

New Business:

- Funding Requests: Bob P. made a motion to approve the \$200 for the Poetry Café, seconded by Diane. Motion passed. Nancy made a motion to give a max of \$200 to fund the extra check-out items, seconded by Karen. Motion passed.
- Nancy suggested that, for the regular book sale, we give out \$.25-off coupons to customers to use at the current sale, or the next scheduled book sale.
- The Spring Tea will be held on June 6th. Nancy will get the ball rolling and e-mail people about joining the planning committee.
- The February 10th meeting of the Friends will begin at 6:00 pm and will include a celebratory “Chocolate” program. Please join us if you are able!

Open Discussion Items: None

Karen made a motion to adjourn at 7:30, seconded by Terri. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Marie Kowalczyk, Secretary