Meeting of the Friends of the Florida Public Library  
Minutes of July 13, 2021

Meeting called to order by President Bob Scott @ 6:33 PM

Members Present: Bob Scott, Nancy Scott, Shirley Coughlin, Mary McNally, Terri Gott, Meg Sgombick, Sara Taylor, Larie Olejniczak, Marie Pehush-Pawliczek, Dot Kimiecik, Diane Arcieri, Laura Fernandez, Ann Marie Kowalczyk

Officers’ Reports:
President: Report deferred.

Vice President: No report at this time.

Treasurer: Terri reported activity of a partial insurance payment and a membership deposit, with an ending balance of $1,801.98. Bob accepted the report, which will be filed for audit. Bob mentioned that our insurance premium is rising $195, resulting in a year’s total of over $500. He thought it might be wise to try for a better rate. The policy is from Travelers, through the Broadfield Insurance Agency. Sara will check with an aunt who works directly for Travelers. Meg will talk to the company insuring the library.

Director: Meg presented the following items:
- A calendar of the Summer Reading Program for July was handed out.
- The upcoming FFPL used book sale was added to Bookfinder (an on-line site for book sales in the U.S.).
- A copy of the updated FFPL membership form was distributed. A suggestion was made to add a $5 Student membership option.
- The library received generous donations in memory of “Jake” Harter, who was instrumental in getting the library running. The entire staff was touched by the community’s response.

Trustee: Per Nancy, the Board has been busy with a reorganization meeting, changing the by-laws, and the swearing in of newly elected trustees and a treasurer. The treasurer is preparing the annual paper report.

Correspondence: None to report.

Old Business:
- The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed by the group. Nancy made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Terri. Motion passed.
- Meg will make the coupons that will be given to members who donate more than the base amount for yearly membership dues. The coupons allow for free used books at an upcoming sale. The program will apply to members who renew/start membership through 9/30/22.
• Upcoming Book Sale – July 29 – Aug 1. Bob got permission from the Mayor to use the Senior Center. Nancy reviewed the schedule for setting up, holding the sale, and clean-up. Sign-up sheets for the various tasks were circulated. A potluck supper will be held after clean-up. The decision was made to forego a bake sale as part of the event. Beth will have members of her church’s youth group participate in the clean-up. Larie suggested asking parents whose children attend the summer programs to help, asking the Mayor to mention the sale in his Warwick Dispatch column, and placing a notice on the Community page. Sara volunteered her husband, Noel, to help move books.
• By-laws – Meg provided a draft of the proposed revisions suggested by the review committee, who met the previous Tuesday. Those present were asked to review the draft and send comments/changes to Nancy.

New Business:
• Diane encouraged members to listen to a Zoom meeting being held on Thursday at 2 pm on the topic of the resilience of Friends’ groups and fundraising. Both Diane and Meg spoke highly of the webinars that the NYLA Friends host. Archived webinars may be found at nyla.org/friends/.
• Meg had one funding request for the renewal of the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum pass, at a cost of $100. Nancy made a motion to renew, seconded by Terri. The motion passed unanimously. Bob encouraged the Library as well as the Friends to promote the museum pass program.
• Meeting dates were set for the next few months as follows: August 9, September 14, October 12, November 8, and December 13.

Open Discussion Items:
• Terri requested that an audit be conducted on the Treasurer’s reports/activity. The group agreed that an audit of 2019 and 2020 was reasonable. Marie, Diane, and Nancy will comprise the audit committee, and will provide a report at the September meeting.
• Diane suggested that the Friends reconsider filing for a tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Cost may be an issue. Meg thought maybe some NYLA Friends might do the legal work pro bono. Anita had done investigative work in the past. Diane and Meg will spearhead the project.
• The Chamber of Commerce is hosting a concert on the lawn of the Mapes House on July 22 from 6-9. ‘Hudson Blues’ is the featured band. All are welcome to this community event.

Nancy made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 PM, seconded by Terri. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Marie Kowalczyk, Secretary