Meeting of the Friends of the Florida Public Library
Minutes of September 14, 2021

Meeting called to order by Vice President Shirley Coughlin @ 6:32 PM

Members Present: Nancy Scott, Shirley Coughlin, Mary McNally, Meg Sgombick, Diane Arcieri, Karen Thomas, Sara Taylor, Larie Olejniczak, Marie Pehush-Pawliczek, Ann Marie Kowalczyk

Officers’ Reports:
President: No report at this time.

Vice President: No report at this time.

Treasurer: There were no questions regarding the report showing monthly activity for August, 2021. The ending balance was $3,589.06. Shirley accepted the report, which will be filed for audit.

Director: Meg presented the following items:
• The September calendar of library events was handed out. The Library’s 63rd Anniversary weekend is being celebrated on Sept 25-26. There will be two special events - a painting class on 9/25 and the Fall Poetry Café on 9/26.
• OrangeREADS 2021, a county-wide Book Experience, is being sponsored by the Orange Library Association. The featured book is “The Body: A Guide for Occupants” and is this month’s choice for the Page Turner’s Book Club. Some other library programs are being tied to the theme of this book.
• Signs for the upcoming book sale will be placed around the village. Sara volunteered to create some larger signs, and put them on various community boards and other appropriate places about a week before the sale.

Trustee: Per Nancy, four policies, including the Disaster Plan, were reviewed this month. Trustee Kevin Lundell resigned. The Board is seeking a replacement who will be appointed to the position until next April. At that time, the appointee can run in the spring election to complete Kevin’s term. Meetings are being conducted with architects to discuss future library plans. The Board is asking for each step in the process to be defined, along with an estimated cost. Two firms show promise. Meg said that the Friends will play a vital role in helping move this project forward.

Correspondence: None to report.

Old Business:
• The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed by the group. Karen made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Diane. Motion passed.
• Status of 501(c)(3) Project – Per Diane and Meg, nothing to report at this time.
New Business:

- Meg has transitioned from the “provisional” to the “official” Director of the Library.
- Funding Requests:
  - Renewal of the Storm King museum pass (Cost - $125). This pass is one of the most used by patrons. Karen made a motion to renew, seconded by Marie. Motion passed unanimously.
  - Poetry Café on 9/26, emceed by Robert Milby (Cost - $200). Karen made a motion to approve, seconded by Diane. Motion passed unanimously.
  - Meg’s registration at the virtual NYLA conference (Cost - $99). Marie made a motion to approve, seconded by Sara. Motion passed unanimously.
  - FFPL membership in the NYLA Friends of Libraries Section (Cost - $50). This group is a great resource for ideas on fundraising, membership expansion, etc. Diane made a motion to approve, seconded by Nancy. Motion passed unanimously.
- Opportunity for Fundraising via Zoom – Marie, Diane, and Meg recently listened to a NYLA FLS Connections Zoom meeting. Friends of the Hasting Public Library spoke about their successful miniature Christmas tree sale. This discussion prompted others to offer ideas for sales: seasonal bouquets, wreaths, centerpieces (non-denominational), gently-used handbags. “Bag Bingo” was mentioned.
- Sara suggested that we make some of our used book inventory (i.e., cook books and crocheting/sewing books) available to participants of upcoming library programs. She offered to carry the books from the basement, and will collaborate with Meg.
- Upcoming Used Book Sale: 9/30 – 10/3. Nancy passed around sign-up sheets for various tasks. “Muscles” to move books between buildings are especially needed Thursday evening and Sunday afternoon. Meg will reach out to potential groups for help. Mary made a motion to approve a limit of $125 to be spent on pizza/soda for Thursday evening, seconded by Karen. Motion passed unanimously.
- Membership Renewal/Reinstatement and Used Book Sale Notification – The 2021 FFPL membership year ends on September 30th. Nancy will be sending letters to anyone who was a member in 2020 or 2021, and who has not yet renewed for 2022. The letter will include a 2022 membership form and information about volunteering at the used book sale. For those who are members through 2022, Nancy will send a postcard specifically asking for help with the used book sale. Mary made a motion to pay for the postage for the letters and postcards, seconded by Karen. Motion passed unanimously.

Open Discussion Items:

- Per Meg, the Florida Chamber of Commerce is hosting another free outdoor concert on 9/23 at 6 pm at the Seward-Mapes Homestead Park. At the event, school staff and faculty will be thanked. Sara suggested that the used book sale be advertised in some form at the event.

Diane made a motion to adjourn at 7:19 PM, seconded by Mary. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Marie Kowalczyk, Secretary