Meeting of the Friends of the Florida Public Library
Minutes of November 8, 2021

Meeting called to order by President Bob Scott @ 6:31 PM

Members Present: Bob Scott, Nancy Scott, Shirley Coughlin, Terri Gott, Meg Sgombick, Diane Arcieri, Karen Thomas, Sara Taylor, Larie Olejniczak, Ann Marie Kowalczyk

Officers’ Reports:
President: No report at this time. FYI – Last month’s meeting was cancelled due to conflicting commitments for three of the officers.

Vice President: No report at this time.

Treasurer: The ending balance was $3,132.31 for September, and $4,995.81 for October. There were several deposits in October involving memberships and a successful used book sale. Book sale expenses totaled $98 for pizza, soda, and postage. Bob accepted the reports, which will be filed for audit.

Director: Meg presented the following items:
• The November calendar of library events was handed out. There are several programs, including the Black Dirt Storytellers’ Tellabration on Nov. 14.
• The library won a new book drop.
• Two T-Mobile Hotspots have been added to the Library of Things, as a result of a library grant that covers the monthly service fees. Mobile Hotspots can be considered as “traveling routers”.
• A mini, in-house, used book sale will run from Black Friday through December 5th. Brand new puzzles, recently donated, will be included in the sale. Larie suggested giving used book coupons to students, to encourage them to visit the library.

Trustee: Per Nancy, a third architect is being asked to give an expansion presentation to the Board. There is an open Trustee position on the Board. If anyone has suggestions for a viable candidate, please let a Board member know. A Trustee is also needed for RCLS for a five year term – someone from Orange County who is interested in working in the community and has a field of expertise to share. See Diane for more information.

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.
• **Status of 501(c)(3) Project** – Progress is being made by Meg and Diane. Information is being sifted through and required documents are being analyzed. They plan to speak with others who have gone through the process (e.g., Friends of Ethelbert Crawford Library and Helen Rados of RCLS). Terri was able to provide our EIN, which is needed for some forms. The process calls for specific items to be included in our by-laws, so these will need to be reviewed, and possibly revised. There are several forms to complete, along with a $75 filing fee for a certificate of incorporation. An accountant or attorney will be asked to review the documents before submission. Both Meg and Diane are “learning as they go”. We appreciate their commitment to the project.

**New Business:**

- **Funding Requests:**
  - Renewal of the Empire pass (Cost - $65). This pass allows free entry to NY State parks.
  - Renewal of the Intrepid Museum pass (Cost - $500). The current pass expires in January, 2022. Prior to the pandemic, this pass had one of the highest usage rates.
  - Terri made a motion to renew both passes, seconded by Sara. Motion passed unanimously.

- Opportunity for Fundraising discussion: Janet Schwartz, a Tupperware saleswoman, suggested to Nancy that the Friends host an on-line party as a means to raise funds. As the sponsoring group, we would net 20% of the sales. All that would be required is that we advertise the event. The consensus of the group was to do it – especially with the holidays approaching. Nancy will contact Janet.

- **Used Book Sale discussion:** The next sale is scheduled for May 12-15, 2022. There will be a “push” to sell DVDs. A suggestion was made to consider partnering with local businesses in order to conduct raffles during the sale.

- **December Meeting to include a Cookie Swap:** There was unanimous agreement to bring in cookies (individually wrapped) to share at the end of our 12/13 meeting.

**Open Discussion Items:**

- Shirley has created a “Community Service Form”, which will be available to volunteers who require proof of providing help at any of our fundraising events.

- Nancy will furnish Ann Marie with a list of members who have earned thank-you coupons for their level of sponsorship in the 2022 membership drive.

- Karen suggested that our next Spring Tea might have a theme focused on one particular book (e.g., Alice in Wonderland). Diane suggested that perhaps we could get an author to speak. The Spring Tea will be a topic at a future meeting.

Sara made a motion to adjourn at 7:34 PM, seconded by Terri. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Marie Kowalczyk, Secretary