

FRIENDS OF THE FORT MYERS BEACH LIBRARY

Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 30, 2016

Betty Simpson welcomed 17 Friends and guests to the Annual Meeting at 11:00 a.m. and, since the speaker had not yet arrived, she started the business meeting. **Lorrie Wolf** was asked to direct the election. After she received an emergency call and needed to leave Betty skipped directly to the election of the Board of Directors. Lorrie presented the nominations for 2016:

Officers

- President: Betty Simpson
- Vice President: Cherie Smith
- Secretary: Betsy Mangan
- Treasurer: Pat Smith

Directors

- Johanna Campbell
- Judy FitzSimons
- Kathy Giacomponello

Committee chairs

- Jan Fleming (Bookstore)
- Warren Richardson (Membership)

Hearing no nominations from the floor, she called for the vote and the slate was elected unanimously.

Betsy Mangan, Secretary, stated that the minutes of the 2015 annual meeting are available on the Friends Webpage and had appeared in the October issue of *Among Friends*, so the members waived the reading of the minutes. The minutes were approved.

Pat Smith, Treasurer, presented the 2015 financial report that shows a total income of \$14,896.79, that includes a gross income of \$9,845.73 from the bookstore, and total expenses of \$13,022.35, that includes a \$10,000 donation to the library.

Cherie Smith summarized the Friends' activities during 2015. In addition to staffing and operating the bookstore, the Friends held book sales in the garage on January 17th, February 21st, March 21st, April 18th, and November 7th. The Friends plan to hold book sales this year in the garage on the third Saturday of January, February, and March.

Cherie Smith described the current membership drive and stated that it was going well, especially during the book sales.

Betty Simpson introduced **Jan Fleming**, the new bookstore manager, who gave a brief history of the Friends bookstore which had its humble beginnings in the storage shed behind the library in the 1980's as a place to recycle donated books and library withdrawals to the public. From its opening the bookstore was staffed, as it is now, by volunteers. Following the establishment of the Friends of the Fort Myers Beach Public Library in 1992, the group took over the responsibility for operating the bookstore. By the end of the 1990's the store had out-grown the shed, so the Friends rented a store across Bay Street in Sea Grape Plaza in 2000 where the Friends of the Fort Myers Beach Library Used Bookstore opened on February 2nd. Following the completion of the library addition in July 2012 the bookstore was moved to the third floor of the building, re-opening on July 28, 2012. The store across the street was then used to house the library collection of books, media, and children materials that were not put in storage during the construction. The Friends bookstore had moved from the shed out back to a penthouse.

Jim Coles, the first manager of the bookstore was a volunteer in the store, probably from its inception. He has logged more than 20,000 hours working in the store and he instituted the tradition of having a bowl of hard candy at the register for kids of all ages who came into the store. After so many years of service, Jim stepped down from his position as manager at the end of 2015, although he continues to volunteer for one shift a week. This "volunteer extraordinaire" was asked to come forward to be recognized for his instrumental contribution to the Friends and the library. In appreciation for his long service to the Friends he was presented with a small silver box engraved *Jim*

Coles, Bookstore Manager Emeritus and a gift card to his favorite restaurant.

Our speaker still had not arrived, so **Betty Simpson**, adjourned the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Mangan