



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
Board Meeting Minutes, March 20, 2019

Board members present: Brent Clark Palmer, Carol Pearson, Peggy Johnson, Patricia Walters, Vicki Siegel, Janice Norcross, Nani Banks, and Barbara Lupei. **Library Administrator:** Charissa Wagner. **East Kern Regional Library Supervisor:** Shalyn Pineda. **Guests:** Roy Parris, Robert Shaw, Sandy Bradley, and Craig Stump.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. The agenda was approved. The minutes of the February 20, 2019 meeting were approved.

Librarian's Report: Charissa reported

- Roaming Reptiles will give a special performance at the library on April 11th at 3:30 p.m. They are coming over from Bakersfield for two other performances that day and asked if they could keep cool by offering a performance in the library too. They will also be back for SRC, though not paid for by the Kern County Friends group this year.
- The Rural Libraries Tour is sponsoring a visit from poet Olga Garcia Echeverria on April 20th from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This session will include poetry exercises and making mini books.
- The Craft and Chat activity will continue to meet on Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. through May.
- The library will participate in a program sponsored by Desert Valleys Credit Union called "Bite of Reality" which is designed to teach teens about budgeting. She will have a table demonstrating how libraries can help save money. This program is on April 6th.
- The annual Children's Fair will be held on April 15th and the library will have a table.
- Summer Reading Challenge planning continues. Two programs are scheduled that will work well with the theme "It's Showtime At Your Library!". Participants can sign-up and track their reading online using the Beanstock program this year, though paper logs will be available for those who prefer them.
- Wish List update – Her main focus right now is for the new folding tables in the community room that will mainly be covered by the Peck Family Foundation, but not all. The new floorpan revamp will effect the decision about new end caps for shelving. The new projector is still needed as well as a replacement for the old screen that doesn't retract any longer. The computer techs who were recently working in the library gave her a recommendation for another kind of projector to look into that may be best for that space.
- Shalyn reported progress on the makerspace. She has been talking to General Services about how they can help us. She has been editing her list and is almost ready to buy...maybe have items in a couple months. She listed several items including a laser cutter, a cutting machine similar to a Cricut machine, 3-D printer, camera, green screen, sewing machine, circuitry kits, and STEM kits. She still plans to have the space set up by June 1st when Summer Reading Challenge begins.
- The book trust came up and Brent verified that there is a \$25K balance with \$12K of that expected to go towards the new larger book drop. The rest is expected to be spent on books. The discussion was deferred until Old Business, where it is on the agenda.

President's Report: Brent reported

- He has been meeting local people who are championing collaborative innovation in the community.

- Scott O'Neil, now Executive Director of the IWW Economic Development Corporation, was interested in the grant that is providing funding for the library's makerspace. Brent met with him and found out that Suzette keeps him informed. He feels it is a collaborative effort, not competitive.
- Jim Suver, CEO of Rigdecrest Regional Hospital, told Brent he was interested in the idea of leasing some of the empty spaces in the old Albertsons center to create a culture hub. Collaborative spaces could be shared by bakeries, coffee vendors, arts, and crafts. Brent suggested we could open a book sale during events held at the center.
- He also mentioned that a publicity committee has been formed to share the work of flyers, ads, facebook posts, and any other publicity. So far the committee includes Barbara and him but others are welcome if they have an interest. Several people complimented his ad for the Swap Sheet that will also be the Facebook post.

Treasurer's Report: Nani reported

- She provided copies of the February 2019 FRBL Financial Report. The Salesroom brought in an average of \$239/week. A donation from the local chapter of United Way totaling \$596.31 was received. The 2018 annual audit was completed on March 2nd by Brent and Naomi Norris. There were no problems.
- Nani mentioned the monthly \$17.87 payment for the Sunday New York Times (NYT) newspaper and Shalyn announced that libraries in California are now receiving electronic access to the paper for free. The group agreed that it is still nice to have a paper copy at least once a week. The Sunday paper can be cancelled at any time if we change our minds.

Vice-President, Membership Report: Carol Pearson reported

- Since our last meeting, there have been 2 new members and 6 renewals.

Vice-President, Book Sales Report: Janice reported

- She needs a few more volunteers for shifts on the sale dates. Please contact her.
- Dates for the fall sale will be October 5th and October 12th.
- Barbara reported that flyers for the sale are in the Friend's box in library work room. There are some half-sheet versions still available too. She gave all of the third-sheet hand-outs to Charissa. These are the ones that fit in the holders in the library.
- Sandy said she can still use items to sell at the flea market. They can be dropped off at the annex in the spot Janice has set aside on Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. No clothing or books please! Please price your items, but know that prices will be slashed as the day goes on.

Newsletter: Deadline for next newsletter - April 28, 2019.

Old Business:

- Brent reviewed book trust decisions. For the past three years \$12K was transferred into the book trust but didn't get spent. The decision was made not to add more funds this year. After the January meeting, he asked Shalyn to help spend the money that is languishing in a KCL account according to suggestions that had been made during the meeting. The book drop opportunity came up at a cost of \$12K from the book trust.
- Sandy and Roy stated they have been concerned about the slow process of getting new books with only one person at HQ doing purchasing and one person doing the cataloging. She suggested possible ways Friends volunteers could help with selection. Shalyn said she helps when she is at HQ by spending time helping in support services. She said we could request books through Zip Books as a way to help build the collection. Cookbooks are one area where the collection needs to be filled in.
- Charissa reminded the board that the KCL is no longer ordering magazines. We cut book trust funding because of that. She is not sure yet if branch staff will order through the jobber's database or if FRBL will pay retail.

- Roy asked if it would help if we spoke to our County Supervisor about needing more staff to catalog and purchase books. Shalyn said that Support Services has volunteers but there is only so much they are allowed to do.

New Business:

- Brent stated that our by-laws were not changed when we decided to change the board to include three Members-at-Large and drop the Past President position. In order to be in compliance, the by-laws must be changed. Roy informed us that a change to the by-laws required prior notification of members 2 weeks before the vote. There was further discussion on other options, such as having 3 Members-at-Large and a Past President position. It was agreed that Carol would send an email out to members in the next week.*
- Roy brought up the Standing Rules which defines the rules of all officers. It could also define other things that we can do to help out. He will send out electronic copies so we can consider the need for updating them.
- Barbara reminded all that we must be more careful not to assign tasks to staff. For instance, while typing up the minutes from the last meeting, she realized that a board member stated that FRBL should get “credit” for buying the books the library would give away at the Early Education Fair. Charissa agreed they would have labels placed on them. However, no one volunteered to print and place the labels. We need to be aware if anything we suggest will make more work for Charissa who already has more than enough to do. Barbara did email Charissa right away to volunteer to take care of that task.
- Charissa announced that the fiber connection is complete. She is noticing a difference on her staff computer. Robert said he noticed a difference too.
- Barbara mentioned she downloaded the new library app on her iPhone and it was fast and easy to use.
- Charissa announced some new rules for Zip Books. Books no longer have to be available from Amazon Prime, just from Amazon. The maximum price is now \$50.00, and a user can request up to 5 at a time. Previously, the book could not be available in SJVLS, but now the limitation is that the book is not available in KCL. This means many more books are eligible.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m. Members were encouraged to eat lunch at Pizza Factory or Beanster’s to support the fundraiser.

The next Board meeting will be **Wednesday, April 17th** at 10:00 a.m. at the Ridgecrest Library Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lupei, Secretary

***Update:** Within a day or two of the meeting, it was decided that an email would only reach about half of the members so the announcement about a vote to change the by-laws would be made via the newsletter when the timing is right.