**Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library**

Board Meeting Minutes, September 16, 2015

**Present:** Sandy Bradley, Vickie Schauf, Bill Eichenberg, Vicki Siegel, Carol Pearson, Peggy Johnson, Charissa Wagner, Penny Loper, and Barbara Lupei (acting secretary). Guest: Penny Loper’s husband.

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. The agenda was approved. The minutes of the August 19, 2015 meeting were approved.

**President’s Report:**

* Sandy Bradley reported on the status of privatization and funding. Sandy attended Chamber of Commerce meeting where Kern County Supervisor Mick Gleason mentioned the efforts to get a tax measure on the ballot to support Kern County libraries. He remained neutral on the topic.
* Sandy noted that ALE representative Mandy Walters will speak to the Ridgecrest Rotary on September 30 at the Clarion Inn (formerly Carriage Inn). She will repeat her presentation for the general public on the same day. Vickie Schauf stated that she would attend.
* Sandy also reported that the Bakersfield Unified School District resolved against privatization.

They felt it was not in the best interest of literacy and the school children.

**Librarian’s Report:**

* Charissa Wagner reported the following:
  + She has arranged for Mandy Walters, the ALE representative, to give her presentation at a community meeting in the library meeting room at 9:30 a.m. on September 30.
  + Tanya Pyle of KZGN plans to film an interview with Mandy and Miranda after their Rotary presentation. It will be three 8-minute segments like the interview done for Inyokern Elementary School’s summer reading program.
  + Roy, Penny and her husband, and Bill have volunteered to man a table at the Veterans Stand Down on September 25. They will provide information about library services.
  + The roof work is running behind schedule. The roofers are repairing leaks and applying a reflective coating that will help reduce heat in the building.
  + A Local Author Showcase has been scheduled in the library on October 17. Nine local authors are scheduled for the presentation panel, which will be followed by a meet & greet, a reception, and a “Beginners Writing Workshop”. The authors will be encouraged to bring a limited number of one of their published books. Vicki Siegel volunteered to help with the book sales. Twenty percent of the funds from this sale will go to the FRBL.
  + Also planned for October is a Teen Read Week titled “Get Away with Your Library”. It will feature community members speaking about places they have visited. The presentations can include slides or PowerPoint presentations. If you would like to make a presentation, let her know. She is also looking for teens who have travel stories to share.
  + Bill asked about the estimate and how the county will pay for the shelving in the children’s room. He will send a check to the county.
  + Changing tables for the restrooms are still in the estimation stage. General Services will have to verify that there is sufficient space and provide an estimate.

**Treasurer’s Report**

* Bill Eichenberg presented the August 2015 financial status report and weekly sales summary, which are filed with these minutes. He clarified that the advertising budget will be increased to $750 per the motion that was approved at the last meeting to add $400. He also noted that the book sale summary only includes the amount logged in by volunteers. The money from the cash box is added to the financial report under ongoing sales. This averages about $50 per week.
* Bill announced that Alta One will no longer accept checks made out to “FRBL” unless a letter signed by the president is added to our file. He will prepare the letter and deliver it to solve this problem.
* The FRBL was not included as an option in the 2015 CFC campaign. Bill has spoken to their representatives to make sure it will be an option for 2016.

**Vice-President, Book Sales Report:**

* Vicki Siegel reported on publicity and advertising for the upcoming book sales.
* Vickie Schauf reported on the FRBL’s book sales on Amazon. John has listed about 150 books for sale, and Vickie has a list too. Amazon deducts 15% and sends the balance of the total sales from these lists to the organization. Bill noted that income from these sales is included in the budget under Special Books.

**Vice-President, Membership Report:** Carol Pearson reported that 3 new memberships were received this month. The YTD totals for new members are 20, and for renewals are 125.

**Newsletter:**  Deadline for next newsletter – October 30.

**Old Business:**

* The spot for the FRBL’s median road art was approved. It is located on China Lake Blvd. between Coso and Las Flores. Sandy recommended three metal artists who might be likely to donate their work to a non-profit organization. The next step is to contact the artists. The FRBL can pay for the materials and perhaps for part of the artist’s time. The sculpture will depict the FRBL shaman.
* Vicki reported that the status of the trip to the LA Book Festival remains the same. Vicki said:  "Debbie Benson at the Maturango Museum will let me know by the end of October if the museum wants to participate with us."
* The Freedom Shrine has not yet been moved, but the Exchange Club still plans to movie it in September. Bill said he would help by removing books that are on the shelves in front of the plaques.
* Book sale flyers were handed out so that attendees could post them around town.
* A flyer reminding members of the Pizza Factory fundraisers will be sent out each month.

**New Business:**

* A potluck has been planned to honor the FRBL book sale volunteers. It will be held at the Heritage Clubhouse on Friday, December 4. The fee for the venue is $75, which will be covered by donations from the board members. An FRBL check will be used for the damage deposit as this will be returned to the organization after the event and not cashed.
* Vicki Siegel is organizing the “Thank You” luncheon for the library staff that will be held in October. Charissa will choose the date. A maximum of six dishes that can sit out for a few hours will be needed. Vicki will let us know the date and what we can do to help. *She sent this information later by email: “*The library staff has decided they want Chinese food brought in for their 'good job acknowledgement lunch'.  Not what I had thought about.....but Sandy and I decided we can make it work. I'll pick up the food and get all the paper goods and she's generously putting up the funds for the food until the next board meeting when members can chip in...or not....**The date chosen for this luncheon is Thursday, Oct 15th around noon**. Board members can come by if they want to.”
* Elections will be held at the November meeting.
* Sandy introduced Barbara Lupei, a retired librarian, who volunteered to act as secretary until the elections.
* Charissa and Bill offered to set up a photo opportunity with the Pecks and a big check representing their donation. They will send the photo and a write-up to the local papers.
* Sandy introduced the topic of the changes the Kern County Friends are considering to develop flexibility in their by-laws in the event of privatization of the library system. She offered to research the process for changing our by-laws. *She sent this information later by email:* Article XI states, “These bylaws may be amended at any regular or special Membership meeting provided that members have been notified of proposed amendment(s) at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting: and that proposed amendments(s) have been posted in the Library at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting.” The FRBL by-laws were last changed in 2012.
* Vicki Siegel proposed that the FRBL fund outdoor seating and tables for the library. Charissa will ask the county if that would be approved.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. Members were encouraged to eat lunch at Pizza Factory to support the fundraiser.

The next Board meeting will be **Wednesday, October 21, 2015,** at 10:00 a.m. at the Ridgecrest Library Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lupei, Acting Secretary