**Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library**

Board Meeting Minutes, August 19, 2015

**Present:** Sandy Bradley, Vickie Schauf, Bill Eichenberg, Vicki Siegel, Carol Pearson, Peggy Johnson, Roy Parris, Barbara Lyle, Charissa Wagner, Dave Burdick. Guest: Sarah Wersan.

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. The agenda was approved. The minutes of the May 20, 2015 meeting were approved.

**President’s Report:**

* Sandy Bradley reported on the status of privatization and funding. Sandy, Dave Burdick and Roy Parris met with Mick Gleason and Denny Kline to discuss options and concerns regarding the future of the Kern County Library System. Mr. Gleason was collecting information and asking for input. He acknowledged the grassroots opposition to outsourcing library services. He did not express support or opposition to the tax initiative. He did say that the BOS may not favor the tax initiative because it restricts the spending of the funds. The proposed community meetings have not yet been scheduled.
* Sandy noted that representatives of LSSI have met with the Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce. ALE is expected to meet with the Chamber in October. ALE is trying to remain aware and informed about what different community groups are thinking about possible privatization or tax increases.
* On the bright side, funding for the libraries was increased by $174K in the new county budget. The increase will be spent on more library materials and WIFI for every branch. (It is assumed that FRBL will no longer be paying for WIFI since the county is taking over this expense for all branches.) Sandy also reported that there was positive public response at the BOS budget hearing. The increase in the library budget is greatly appreciated but considered just one step in the right direction.
* Roy Parris expressed concern that the last long range plan for the Kern County Library System was done in 2002. If the tax increase is passed, will there be a surplus? How will the money be handled? Although there are currently no answers to these questions, it is hoped that the BOS will be working on a new plan with Nancy Kerr.

**Librarian’s Report:**

* Charissa Wagner reported the following:
  + The worn doormat will be replaced.
  + The summer reading programs were very successful with over 300 children completing the programs. There were 40 finishers for the Inyokern program. There was increased teen and adult participation as well. $5K in community donations resulted in handouts, coupons and prizes for reading program participants.
  + The Peck Family Foundation donation will be used to purchase new shelving for the children’s area. Roy Parris and Bill Eichenberg volunteered to assemble the shelving, which is expected to arrive mid-October or later.
  + Volunteers from FRBL will man a table at the Veterans Stand Down in September.

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* + Charissa requested FRBL funds to replace some of the upholstered chairs, which have exposed staples, posing a safety issue for patrons. She will get an estimate and send it to the Treasurer.

**Treasurer’s Report**

* Bill Eichenberg presented the July, 2015 and second quarter, 2015 reports, which are filed with these minutes. He clarified that the budgeted amount for the big sales is included in the ongoing sales budget. In July, there was a payment for last year’s WIFI service. Bill noted that no invoice has been received for the most recent RUCKUS improvements. He requested that Charissa determine if an invoice is forthcoming or if Kern County will now be paying for any WIFI expenses as per the new budget.
* Donations have been received in memory of Paula Caudill.

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

* The ongoing sales tally was distributed. Bill Eichenberg noted that sales are holding reasonably well. There is some possible negative impact because of the inability of volunteers to restock as often. He also noted that this tally includes totals from the book sales room only. It does not include income from sources such as money left after book room hours or cash received at the annex.
* Vickie Schauf reported that volunteers continue to handle huge donations at the annex. The upcoming fall book sale will be held on two consecutive Saturdays, September 26th and October 3rd. Volunteers may contact Vickie. The paperwork requesting use of the annex has been submitted and insurance is in place.
* Vickie reported further that Sue Parker and John Anderson conducted classes on how to evaluate and sell special books online. Some money has come in from Amazon.com. It takes about 4-6 weeks to get the money.
* Vickie requested the purchase of two additional tables for the sale, so volunteers will not have to borrow or transport tables. It was **moved, seconded and carried** that the request to buy two additional tables be approved.
* Vicki Siegel requested approval of funds for the advertising budget for the fall sales. It was **moved, seconded and carried** that up to $400.00 be approved for advertising.

**Vice-President, Membership Report:** Carol Pearson reported that over 40 memberships or renewals have been received since the last meeting as well as a couple of business renewals. She noted that she has $85.00 left which should cover the next two newsletter mailings.

**Newsletter:**  Sandy Bradley reported for Penny Loper. She thanked Penny for the most recent issue. Penny will continue to do the FRBL newsletter.

**Old Business:**

* The summer reading programs were a great success and Terri Middlemiss was thanked for being instrumental in getting the Inyokern program going.

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* Vicki Siegel reported that she is working on a joint field trip with the Maturango Museum to the LA Book Festival in April, 2016. Vicki will report on the progress of the planning at the next meeting.
* Members from the Exchange Club will relocate the Freedom Shrine sometime after September 5th. The books from the top shelves in the sales room will be moved for easier access.
* A check from the Peck Family Foundation in the amount of $3500.00 was presented by Dave Burdick. The donation will be used for children’s area shelving. (See Librarian’s Report.) It was suggested that a photo for this large donation be submitted to local papers. Vicki Siegel and Charissa Wagner will set up the photo and article. The Secretary will send a thank you letter to the Peck Family.
* Regarding fund raising, the Pizza Factory fundraiser has been set up for the 3rd Wednesdays through the end of the year. On these days, 30% of profits from those who mention FRBL at checkout will be donated to FRBL.
* Sandy reported that she is looking into fundraising from [Smiles@amazon.com](mailto:Smiles@amazon.com). The Shafter branch is already using the KC Friends tax ID number, so there is some complication in registering our group. Sandy will continue to work on the issue.
* Vickie Schauf will ask Dr. Goonesinghe about the possibility of participating in her ongoing Helping Hand fundraiser.

**New Business:**

* Sandy reported that ALE has asked FRBL for an endorsement, so that they can use the evidence of support in literature and efforts to get the proposed tax initiative on the 11-16 ballot. Discussion included questions about how the ballot initiative will be managed. Sandy explained that ALE has no connection with the BOS. If the tax initiative is approved, the funds will be under the aegis of the BOS and they will appoint an advisory board to administer the funds. The money will be restricted to library expenditures and the BOS may not violate terms of the ballot initiative as per state law. ALE efforts and documentation are being done with legal advice. They are further being aided by the “Better Libraries” group that helps county organizations obtain tax help. It was generally agreed that a FRBL endorsement would be advantageous in the ALE efforts to avoid privatization and get the tax initiative on the ballot. It was **moved, seconded and carried** that FRBL publicly endorse the efforts of ALE.
* Regarding a monetary donation to ALE to support its efforts to get the tax initiative on the ballot, the board discussed the possibilities and legalities. It was noted that LSSI is currently spending money in the community to promote its services. A donation in addition to the endorsement of ALE would further confirm FRBL opposition to privatization. An amount of $350.00 has been previously approved and designated by this board to support ALE. It was **moved and seconded** that an additional $650.00 be approved and added to the previously approved $350.00 to be given to ALE to support its efforts. **Five in favor, two opposed, one abstaining. Motion carried.** Dave Burdick volunteered to draft a press release detailing the above described endorsement and donation to ALE for local papers.
* The Veterans Stand Down will be from 9am – 3pm on September 25th. Roy Parris, Bill Eichenberg and Charissa Wagner will volunteer.

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* The FRBL Secretary position will be vacated early due to the upcoming relocation of the Secretary, Barbara Lyle. Sandy has some individuals in mind who may be able to fill in until the next election.
* Sandy led discussion of the possibility of FRBL sponsoring median art on China Lake Blvd. There is a likely spot available near the county building. It may be possible to commission median art in the form of the FRBL shaman logo. In the interest of time, it was **moved, seconded and carried** that the available spot on CLB be reserved now. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. Members were encouraged to eat lunch at Pizza Factory to support the fundraiser.

The next Board meeting will be **Wednesday, September 16, 2015,** at 10:00 a.m. at the Ridgecrest Library Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lyle, Secretary