**Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library**

Board Meeting Minutes, April 15, 2015

**Present:** Sandy Bradley, Vickie Schauf, Bill Eichenberg, Vicki Siegel, Carol Pearson, Terri Middlemiss, Peggy Johnson, Roy Parris, Barbara Lyle, Charissa Wagner, Dave Burdick. Guest: Nancy Kerr, Director, Kern County Library

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. The agenda was approved. The minutes of the March 18, 2015 meeting were approved.

**President’s Report:**

* Sandy Bradley reported that she and Dave Burdick attended a meeting of a newly organized group called Advocates for Library Enhancement (ALE). The group is led by Miranda Lomeli-O’Reilly and Mandy Walters. The purpose of the group is to support libraries with the current objective of getting a tax measure on a special election ballot in November, 2015. They are proposing a one-eighth of a cent sales tax that could possibly generate $15M for Kern County libraries. It would be a dedicated library tax, not eligible to be used for anything else. James Burger, Bakersfield Californian writer, also attended the ALE meeting and reported that the Board of Supervisors has taken a step back from the privatization conversation in light of community outcry and opposition. Dave Burdick suggested that it would be helpful if the BOS presented comparative reports on CA libraries, including photos. More information will be given as these efforts progress.
* Regarding the Shafter library model, both Sandy Bradley and Roy Parris visited Shafter and reported that the library itself did not benefit in terms of space and ability to serve. The model is more of a benefit to the community and the school. Having seen the Shafter library, neither Sandy nor Roy recommended the model for Ridgecrest or other Kern libraries.
* Next steps on privatization: Discussion pending further action by the Board of Supervisors.

**Librarian’s Report:**

* Charissa Wagner reported that a bill for the RUCKUS WIFI system installation is expected soon for the amount of $1,119.83. These monies have already been approved by the FRBL. Charissa continues to work on future FRBL funded projects such as ceiling fans, changing tables for the restrooms and summer reading programs.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

* Bill Eichenberg presented financial data and reported that the FRBL is doing well financially with total assets of $42,110.73. $15K has been budgeted as a contribution to the Book Trust and it was **moved, seconded and carried** that $12K be given to the Book Trust at this time. The financial reports will be filed with the minutes. Bill stated that there may be some delay in next month’s reports because he will be out of town just prior to the meeting.

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

* Vickie Schauf reported on the results of the April 11, 2015 book sale. The total amount of sales was $2498.50. Of this, $235.00 was received in dues, $85.00 for special books, $67.00 for sales of The Long Overdue Library Book and $12.00 in T-shirts, with the total for regular books and

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media $2099.50. She thanked all of the volunteers. A special thank you letter will be sent acknowledging those who volunteered from the base. It was a successful sale.

* The discussion regarding future use of the annex building was postponed to the next agenda.

**Vice-President, Membership Report:** Carol Pearson reported that 8 new memberships and 20 renewals were taken at the Book Sale.

**Newsletter:**  Sandy Bradley reported that Penny Loper is still assisting in her husband’s recovery and is unable to publish the next newsletter. Sandy proposed that individuals prepare their articles (Charissa - Librarian’s Report and National Library Week, Sandy – President’s Report, Facebook Page and revisions to LOLB and Nancy Kerr’s visit, Vickie Schauf and Bill – Spring Book Sale) and submit them by April 24th. Peggy Johnson volunteered to put the newsletter together with assistance from Sandy if necessary.

**Old Business:**

* Status of summer reading program in Inyokern: Terri Middlemiss reported that she is awaiting word from the Inyokern school principal on whether the program will proceed. She will report at the next meeting.
* The discussion of future library expansion and fundraising ideas was postponed to the next agenda.
* Vicki Siegel reported that the Volunteer Fest has been moved to May 2nd from 4-9 p.m. Sandy Bradley and Peggy Johnson will man a FRBL table at the Fest.

**New Business:**

* Bill Eichenberg reported that he was contacted by the Exchange Club regarding placement of the Freedom Shrine plaques which are currently hung in the Sales Room, but partially hidden by books. The Exchange Club, which originally donated and dedicated the “great document” plaques, would like them to be relocated and rearranged for a re-dedication of the Shrine, possibly in May. Charissa Wagner will look for an appropriate place to hang the plaques within the library. It was agreed that this may not be able to be accomplished by May. Further discussion will be held at the next meeting.
* It was suggested that Honorary membership in FRBL be granted to Marsha Lloyd and that she continue to receive the newsletter without paying dues. It was **moved, seconded and carried** that Marsha Lloyd be made a lifetime honorary FRBL member.
* Sandy and Charissa have developed a Facebook page for FRBL. It is currently small, but more will be added in the months to come. It has information on what FRBL is, how to become a member, and links to other sites. Photos and hours of the sales room will be added, as well as T-shirt and bag information. Sandy will also share ALE updates, which cannot be shared on the main library FB page.

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* At this time, Nancy Kerr, Director of the Kern County Library system, was in attendance at the meeting and was introduced. Nancy gave an overview of her job and her vision for libraries and answered questions. Her remarks are summarized below.
  + She has been Director since December 1, 2014. Her past experience includes time in the Chicago area and more recently Santa Clarita. She is surprised at the funding problems in CA library systems and believes this will be the biggest challenge of her tenure. This is her 40th branch visit. She is enthusiastic, tenacious and wants to effect positive change. She enjoys working with underserved communities and is comfortable working with politicians and administrators. She has encouraged all of the district supervisors to visit their own library branch.
  + Regarding the proposed ballot measure, she supports it. ALE is the key player in the movement to get the measure on a special ballot in November. There may be another group (name of group unknown at this time) who is giving significant backing to the ballot measure. Additionally, the state librarian supports the measure. Were the measure to pass, the status of the library would not change, only the source of funding.
  + She encouraged everyone to continue to keep library issues in front of the supervisors. The easy economizing measures have already been done, the budget shortage is real and needs to be managed by exploring all options. Exploring city/county partnerships is worthy, but these models don’t always work.
  + Regarding the current Kern County budget process, she stated there will be three public hearings before the budget is finalized. Community members need to watch the BOS meeting agendas and attend via VTC. It does no harm to continue to ask for money for libraries. She noted that in the proposed budget for July, no changes are planned for the Ridgecrest branch.
  + Nancy noted that the CAO is developing a survey to be completed by county citizens to obtain information on what is needed and wanted in libraries. Friends groups may have input on survey questions. The survey is still in draft form.
  + Nancy also stated that PBS SoCal may be a future source of support and or funding.
  + Nancy closed by saying that she enjoyed her visit and looks forward to attending future FRBL meetings, possibly via SKYPE or FaceTime.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

The next Board meeting will be **Wednesday, May 20, 2015,** at 10:00 a.m. at the Ridgecrest Library Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lyle, Secretary