



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
Board Meeting Minutes, August 15, 2018

Board members present: Sandy Bradley, Carol Pearson, Peggy Johnson, Patricia Walters, and Barbara Lupei. **Library Administrator:** Charissa Wagner. **Guests:** Brent Palmer, Cheryl McDonald, Geoffrey Voigt, Helen Jackson, Judy Fair-Spaulling, and Barbara Bane.

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. The agenda was amended to move Old Business to the first item, for the convenience of visitors, and approved. The minutes of the May 16, 2018 meeting were approved.

Old Business:

- Artist and CCCC instructor Geoff Voigt suggested that artwork by Cerro Coso students could be displayed in the library, and perhaps artwork from the prison where he also teaches. He displayed a very large canvas that he painted, “Caffeine Creature”, and suggested it would fit above the magazine display racks in the main reading area. Discussion ensued about how it would be hung. Bolts in the masonry were not a good option, but perhaps a lighter piece that could hang from hooks in the ceiling or from the rafters? He agreed to start with the student art and get back to us in a month.
- Cheryl McDonald shared the brochure she was commissioned to create by the Ridgecrest Area Convention & Visitors Bureau. “Art of the Indian Wells Valley: A Self-Guided Tour” is a guide to public art in the IWV. She brought a large stack of brochures for the library to offer free to the public. More are available when needed.

Librarian’s Report: Charissa Wagner reported

- She was proud to announce that the Lunch at the Library program served 1,244 meals to children, an average of 54 a day. The partnership with SSUSD is expected to continue next year. This program does monopolize the community room from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. so Peggy will not schedule a volunteer in the room during the program next summer.
- She reminded us that statistics really help the branch! Stats from the SRP were impressive. We had 308 child finishers, 77 tween/teen finishers, and 99 adult finishers! A total of 5,146 books were read/listened to by children, tweens/teens read/listened to 1,354 hours, and 1,245 books were read/listened to by adults. The Inyokern Elementary outreach location had 37 finishers (6 adults read/listened to 90 books, 7 tweens/teens read/listened to 130 hours, 24 children read/listened to 460 books).
- New computers are coming in to replace public catalog and patron computers. The branch is not hooked up to the higher speed network yet.
- Volunteers are needed to staff a table at the Veterans Stand Down on Sept 21st. The event is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Volunteers will provide info on free library services that could help veterans find jobs, improve skills, or find information.
- A few months ago she asked KCL HQ for a tablecloth for such events but never received it. She would like one that is branded with the library logo/info and the Friends logo/info that will work for either a 6’ or 8’ table. The board suggest we should just buy one and not deal with the county. Cost estimated at \$200. She will follow up.
- The Peck Family Foundation asked what the library needed this year. She requested flat wall displays for the children’s room to replace the wire racks, plus flip-down tables for the community room to make it easier to set up for events. The grant was approved.
- Sandy suggested that Charissa bring the Wish List to each meeting so we can whittle away on it. Patricia asked about the status of the cubby-hole cabinet for behind the circulation desk. Charissa has not ordered it yet. She was waiting for the bill for the TV mounting from

public works to come in first. The board felt that she should order it. We are expecting the bill from public works and have taken it into consideration.

President's Report: Sandy Bradley reported

- She reported that new life was breathed into the library tax initiative by the California Supreme Court when they ruled (2017) that some tax initiatives brought by a petition of the voters required only a 50%+1 majority to pass. Linda Fiddler, from Bakersfield, became the leader of a movement to bring a new initiative for a "library only: 1/8 of a percent sales tax to the ballot. The movement is called Library Initiative for Everyone or LIFE for short. She visited Ridgecrest in late May and a new group of Ridgecrest supporters began the task of collecting the signatures of registered Kern County voters in our area. These volunteers braved the high summer temperatures and gathered 2,500 signatures to send to Bakersfield for a total of 14,500. However, this figure is unlikely to meet the goal of 13,500 after the Kern County Elections Department reviews them for validity. Another 3 to 4 thousand signatures are needed county-wide. She will be working with Dave Burdick and Renee Westa-Lusk to schedule volunteers at events around town like back-to-school nights and sports venues. Since the initial push didn't gain quite the needed number of signatures to get the initiative on the March 2020 ballot, a Plan B was developed. 1.) Continue collecting signatures until October to meet the deadline to qualify for the General Election in November 2020. 2.) If there are new people serving on the Kern County Board of Supervisors who are more supportive of the library we could ask them to adopt the initiative. It would not have to go on the ballot. 3.) We force a special election. This is costly and not recommended.
- She thanked all who supported the Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours meeting in the library community room, including Brent, who set it up, plus Terri, Patricia, and Barbara who attended from the Friends.
- Charissa pointed out that the Community Yard Sale is the same date as the book sale. The board stated that we would not participate in the yard sale this year.

Treasurer's Report: Nani was not present

- The July financial report was provided by Sandy.

Vice-President, Membership Report: Carol Pearson reported

- Since our last meeting there have been 7 new members and 36 renewals.

Vice-President, Book Sales Report: Janice was not present

- Sandy reported that the Summer Book Sale earned \$1,000 plus some t-shirt/bag sales. Feedback from shoppers included disappointment that all the usual subject areas were not available.
- The Fall Book Sale dates are Sept. 15th and 22nd, with Cupcake Wars 2 also on the 22nd. Publicity, flyers and handouts are in the works. Brent has revised the rules for Cupcake Wars so that each flavor cupcake provided by each baker will be judged. He requested Sandy's help again this year.

Newsletter: Deadline for next newsletter - October 26, 2018.

- Sandy introduced Judy Fair-Spaulding, the new editor of the FRBL newsletter.

New Business:

- Vicki asked Sandy to include an agenda item for discussion of a Christmas Party for Volunteers. After brainstorming party ideas, it was suggested that the party be scheduled at a time of year that is not quite so busy for most people, perhaps early November. Choosing a Monday was suggested so that library staff could be included. A potluck was agreeable to all. A potential date of November 5th was chosen. Brent volunteered to contact the

Maturango Museum about reserving their space that includes a kitchen and runs about \$30 an hour.

- Two plaques in the library that haven't been updated in quite some time were mentioned. One is a benefactors plaque and the other is a volunteers plaque. Discussion suggested that if/when the volunteer plaque is updated it would be changed to honor those with 500 hours of service instead of 50 hours. Sandy will check in with Marsha Lloyd for background on the benefactors plaque.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. Members were encouraged to eat lunch at Pizza Factory or Beansters to support the fundraiser.

The next Board meeting will be **Wednesday, September 19th** at 10:00 a.m. at the Ridgecrest Library Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lupei, Secretary