**Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library**

Board Meeting Minutes, October 21, 2015

**Present:** Sandy Bradley, Vickie Schauf, Bill Eichenberg, Vicki Siegel, Carol Pearson, Peggy Johnson, Charissa Wagner, Roy Parris, and Barbara Lupei (acting secretary).

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. The agenda was approved. The minutes of the September 16, 2015 meeting were approved.

**Librarian’s Report:** Charissa Wagner reported the following:

* The roof project caused leaks during the rains on October 5 and 6. Most of the damage was in the staff workroom where books, ceiling tiles, and shelving will have to be replaced. Carpet will have to be cleaned or replaced. The contractors are expected to cover these costs.
* The Kern County Library schedule of community meetings recently released runs through November 19. It does not include Ridgecrest or several other branches. With the holidays coming, there is concern about when the rest of the meetings might be scheduled. (There have already been meetings with the staff at several branches, including the Ridgecrest Branch.)
* A Librarian III position is currently open. The incumbent will serve as supervisor for several branches including Ridgecrest. Bill mentioned that this vacancy has delayed the purchase of the shelving the FRBL is donating. Charissa agreed to investigate whether there is any way around this hold up.
* The week of Thanksgiving the Ridgecrest Branch will be closed Thursday through Saturday.
* She passed along thanks from the library staff for the luncheon provided by the FRBL.

**President’s Report:** Sandy Bradley reported

* The ALE presentation in the library on September 30 was well attended and the audience was positive.
* KZGN has aired their interviews with Mandy and Miranda.
* The letter from Mary Anne Steele representing the Friends of the Kern County Library states that there is no simple answer for the future and it is too early to make any changes to the by-laws. She also reminded us, “Our organization cannot support or oppose any candidate.” In relation to the potential ballot initiative, she stated, “…a 501(c) 3 organization cannot influence legislation.” There was discussion on both of these statements and Vickie volunteered to look into this more closely and report back to the group.
* Sandy read the 138-page report and the 13-page summary on the survey results. The results showed that a majority of the respondents are against contracting out the library services, and a majority are in favor of a small tax to support libraries
* She requested a video link to the Board of Supervisors meeting in order to be able to question them, but the link was not set up when she arrived.
* The recent article in the *Daily Independent* advocating for privatization, and misrepresenting the survey results, was printed anonymously, which has always been against their policy. The editor has admitted the article was submitted by Better Libraries for Kern County. Rebuttal letters/articles will be submitted to the DI by board members.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Bill Eichenberg reported

* Bill presented the September 2015 financial status report and weekly sales summary as well as the 3rd quarter financial report. He reminded the board members this does not include the sales from the October 3 book sale.
* He received the application for the 2015/2016 United Way drive and will take care of it.
* He will give Charissa a check today for $3,000 for the book trust so KCL can process it.

**Vice-President, Book Sales Report:** Vickie Siegel reported

* The Navy volunteers from the Branch Medical Clinic were a great help at the books sales. Letters of appreciation will be sent to their commander and for their individual personnel jackets.
* Vickie reported that resellers spent large sums at both books sales. She suggested that the annex be opened to resellers by appointment. Some questioned if this was fair to members. Discussion tabled for a future meeting.
* A volunteer is needed to stock the sales in the library on Mondays between 9:30 and 11:00. If a volunteer has not been found by October 30, Sandy will write a blurb for the newsletter.

**Vice-President, Membership Report:** Carol Pearson reported

* 17 new members
* 30 renewals

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

**Old Business:**

* Sandy presented a design for FRBL’s median road art submitted by Milt Burford. He has offered to complete the sculpture at no charge to the organization. He will complete an extensive application that must be approved by several levels of Caltrans. It was suggested that we purchase a nice gift certificate for him when the project is completed. He showed Sandy how the design could be made into note cards to be sold in the library. (Since the meeting, Milt Burford has donated approximately 250 notecards and envelopes with the reading shaman logo.)
* Vicki reported that the Maturango Museum board has not voted on the trip to the LA Book Festival yet. Details of the trip were discussed.
	+ Cost - $2000 overall, $1,000 for FRBL if bus is shared with museum
	+ Capacity – 48 seats total, 24 for FRBL if bus is shared with museum
	+ Ticket price - $45 break even, $60 would include some profit for org(s)

The board voted on the questions: Will the board cover the cost if for any reason all 24 seats are not sold? The board voted YES. Will the board cover the cost of any unsold seats if the museum does not participate? The board voted YES. Discussion on ticket prices showed agreement on the $45 price since this is a community service, however, if the museum participates we will have to match their price.

* The Freedom Shrine has not yet been moved. Sandy will contact Patty.
* The Veteran’s Stand down continues to be a good opportunity for community support. A $10 gift certificate to the sale room was awarded in a drawing. Next year we need better signage.
* Vicki encouraged board members to attend the potluck planned to honor the FRBL book sale volunteers. It will be held at the Heritage Clubhouse on Friday, December 4 at noon. It was decided that people could bring whatever they wanted for the potluck. All paper and plastic products have been donated. Helpers for the event are still needed.
* The Pizza Factory and Beansters fundraiser was discussed and it was decided to continue this through next year.

**New Business:**

* Sandy announced that WACOM will be donating $600 to FRBL at their luncheon on November 10. She asked Barbara to send a thank you note after the donation has been received. This thank you could be submitted to the newspapers as well.

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

The next Board meeting will be **Wednesday, November 18, 2015,** at 10:00 a.m. at the Ridgecrest Library Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lupei, Acting Secretary