



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
Board Meeting Minutes, October 18, 2017

Board members present: Sandy Bradley, Peggy Johnson, Carol Pearson, Vicki Siegel, Helen Ferguson, Janice Norcross (acting) and Barbara Lupei. Roy Parris attended by phone. **Library Administrator:** Charissa Wagner. **Guests:** Brent Clark Palmer and Pat Walters.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. The agenda was approved. The minutes of the September, 2017 meeting were approved.

Librarian's Report: Charissa Wagner reported

- The Pub Trivia event on October 17 was a success with 12 teams participating. Barbara volunteered to help with the scoring. There was also a drawing for free tickets to the fair. This will be the last Pub Trivia of the year. She will announce a new schedule for 2018.
- One of the staff members will be out for medical reasons starting at the end of the month. She will be off for 3 weeks and then on light duty for 3 weeks. The extra-help staff member will be scheduled to fill in for the staff member who is out.
- She is adding some items to the wish list and will re-prioritize it. Sandy asked her to present it soon so funds could be committed. Otherwise the check may not clear by the end of the year. Roy asked about Chuck Cordell. She has not heard from him but will check in with him again.
- Holiday closures include
 - November 23 - 25 (Thurs. - Sat.) for Thanksgiving
 - December 8 (Fri.) for required training at Beale
 - December 22 - 25 (Fri. - Mon.) for Christmas
 - December 29 - Jan. 2 (Fri. - Mon.) for New Year's Day

President's Report: Sandy Bradley reported

- The Optimist's Club requested our help filling stockings for underprivileged children. Charissa selected 4 titles from the Molina Grant books that were most appropriate. They only want 2 or 3 of each title. They are purchasing books from the salesroom as well.
- Sandy received a letter from Walmart regarding the grant request and asking for more information. It is very difficult to enter information into their online system, but she is working on it.
- She is also applying for a grant for books from the Little Free Library organization. The books would go into the LFL in Inyokern.
- She recently spoke with realtor Mary Lundstrom about the possibility of obtaining a large space at very low cost as an option for a larger library. Mary told Sandy that buildings available would not sell for less than \$500K and more likely twice that amount.
- She shared the architectural drawing that displays potential expansion and reconfiguration of the library. Jim Gregory worked with the original architect of the library on these plans. She spoke with Mayor Peggy Breeden about the plans and Peggy suggested working with Councilman Wallace Martin as he was a good friend of Jim Gregory. Sandy added that a professional quality video would be a good way to market such a project for fundraising. Roy added that the library is in the ideal location so it makes much more sense to expand the present building than to move.

Treasurer's Report: Helen Ferguson reported

- She reminded us that this is her last month as treasurer. She will attend the next meeting to present her final monthly report. She distributed copies of the financial status report for September 2017.
- She shared rough totals for the book sales. The first weekend raised \$3,400. The second weekend raised \$2,741 including the Cupcake Wars, which raised \$800 of that.

Vice-President, Membership Report: Carol Pearson reported

- Since our last meeting there have been 11 new members and 44 renewals, most coming in at the big sales. She sent out a batch of renewal reminders after the big sale so more renewals will be coming in.

Vice-President, Book Sales Report: Acting V.P. Janice Norcross reported

- Roy spoke up first to convey the board members' gratitude for her work on the book sales. She was very organized and the events ran smoothly. He also thanked Brent for his work on the Cupcake Wars.
- Janice listed lessons learned from the big sales and suggestions from Sue Parker:
An additional cashier would be a big help on the first sale day from 10:00 to 12:00. An alternate option would be to have someone totaling the purchases while people are still in line and giving them a sales slip to present to the cashier with their payment. Enlarge the history and politics section. These books are popular and we have a lot. Offer a discounted price (\$5 per bag) during last two hours of second Saturday. Advertise this discount via Facebook and/or email around noon of that day. Windows at the annex need to be cleaned before next sale. Pat suggested asking the high school or boy scouts as they need community service hours.
- She asked if the Friends should continue accepting encyclopedias. Though a set gets sold once in a while, they make a lot of work for the annex team. It was decided to continue accepting them for now.
- Janice suggested a special sale in December featuring vintage books and collectables for holiday gifts. Brent offered to go with her to S& M Coins and Collectables to see if they would like to get involved with the sale.
- Lastly, she saw two sturdy used tables on sale for \$5 each that would be good for the annex. Sandy said she could buy them and turn in a receipt to get reimbursed.

Newsletter: Deadline for next newsletter - October 27, 2017. Peggy offered to write a brief article about the calendars available in the salesroom. They have beautiful photos. Barbara will send photos from the sale.

Old Business:

- Janice and her husband went to Inyokern to scout locations for the LFL. They felt the Bernardino's location was unfeasible due to safety hazards from the main road and the parking situation. She suggested a specific location outside the senior center where there is a sidewalk and a street light. This would be on county land. Her husband has volunteered to help with the installation. After discussion, a proposal was made to place the LFL in this location. The proposal was passed. Roy said he would make sure that Denny Kline knows what we are doing.
- Brent reported that the Cupcake Wars was a great success thanks to beautiful cupcakes, great volunteers, and wonderful judges. A lot of people want to do it again next year! People who purchased a gold fork were entitled to taste 15 cupcakes and vote on their favorites. Lessons learned included:
 - Bottled water should be sold near the cupcakes, not at the food truck.
 - The restaurant owner complained about the food truck.
 - The food truck made a profit.

Children had a great time!

If this should grow into a much bigger event in the future, trash and bathrooms may become an issue. One option would be to ask SSUSD for permission to use restrooms in empty large space in the center.

- Sandy mentioned National Friends of Libraries Week, was this week, October 15-21. She suggested that next year we plan a special event like an open house or membership tea.
- The slate for the November election was discussed. Nani Banks will be running for the Treasurer position (to start in January) recently vacated by Helen. Janice Norcross is running for VP Book Sales. She has been acting in that position since early 2017. Pat Walters is running for a member-at-large position made available when Roy offered to vacate the Past President position to open a position for her. All other board members agreed to run for another term.
- A proposal was made to hold the next board meeting in the evening to make it more convenient for working members to attend. The proposal passed and the meeting was set for 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Bathrooms will not be available after 7:00 p.m.

New Business:

- Barbara announced that the Desert Valleys Federal Credit Union's booth at the Desert Empire Fair would raise funds to benefit local libraries, including the FRBL. They could use a couple of volunteers on Sunday the 22nd.
- Pat's sorority (PON) would like to partner with the library to host activities in Inyokern during school holidays. They would be interested in including senior citizens with the children. Charissa explained that the library does not currently host other programs in Inyokern than the Summer Reading Program. There are also costs for janitorial services and utilities involved. She suggested contacting the senior center to ask if they could arrange events where local children are invited in to enjoy a program with the seniors.
- Vicki reminded the board that she felt the volunteers should be celebrated with a holiday party. She stated, "A holiday party is a gesture of goodwill and unity of the organization - Most other organizations in town who have volunteers have holiday parties." Discussion followed concluding that we are all volunteers and don't feel the need to be thanked. We are so busy at the holidays it is too much to add to our work load. Other ideas of rewards were tossed out such as gift cards or thank-you notes.

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, November 15, 2017**, at 6:00 p.m. at the Ridgecrest Library Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lupei, Secretary