



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
Board Meeting Minutes, February 20, 2019

Board members present: Brent Clark Palmer, Carol Pearson, Peggy Johnson, Patricia Walters, Vicki Siegel, Janice Norcross, Nani Banks, and Barbara Lupei. **Library Administrator:** Charissa Wagner. **Guests:** Roy Parris, Robert Shaw, Ben Sims, Barbara Roberts, and Suzette Caufield, Economic Development Specialist, County Administrative Office. **Guest Speaker:** Tera Moorehead, Director of Community Outreach, Ridgecrest Regional Hospital.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. The agenda was approved. The minutes of the January 16, 2019 meeting were approved.

Librarian's Report: Charissa reported

- She has started making space for the makerspace by weeding both from the list and by condition. She is making notes on what parts of the collection need to be refilled.
- The makerspace funding does not account for furniture, locking cabinets, or other needs. Shalyn is looking through surplus equipment to see if she can find any useful items. If not, FRBL may be asked to purchase them. Some wish list items may be postponed to prioritize these needs.
- Since the discussion of the book trust at the last meeting, the decision was made to use book trust funds to purchase a new book drop that is twice the size of the current one in front of the library. It will contain two carts. The cost with shipping and tax will be approximately \$12K. It will be delivered to Beale to get the decorative vinyl wrap, and then be installed in approximately the same spot as the current book drop. The second book drop outside the side entrance will be sent to Beale for a vinyl wrap as well. The larger book drop will solve a lot of problems for staff and provide better protection for the books dropped over weekends and holidays.
- Upcoming activities include:
 - A table at the Community Yard Sale on March 2nd.
 - Participating in the Early Education Fair (EEF) on March 9th by handing out event brochures.
 - Pub Trivia on March 12th at Casey's.
 - Formal dresses will be swapped at the library as an event with the remainder being distributed to local schools with a dress closet (Burroughs and Mesquite High Schools).
 - A Craft and Chat meeting is scheduled in the community room on Tuesdays from 11:00 to 3:00.
- Lunch at the Library has been confirmed for Inyokern one day a week during The Summer Reading Challenge (SRC) as well as in Ridgecrest Tuesdays through Fridays. Lunch service begins June 4th and will run 7 weeks with the option for an 8th week at Ridgecrest. SRC kickoff is June 1st. The theme is "It's Showtime at Your Library!" All ages are encouraged to participate.
- She introduced Suzette Caufield:

Suzette explained that she represents the Ridgecrest/Indian Wells Valley area for the County Administrative Office. She will work to help identify people in the community who can help manage the maker space and provide training. She recommended timing training programs during the day for entrepreneurs and in the afternoon for children. She is working with Shalyn to learn the process of where things will go. She also has access to a

database of grants. She gets a daily update and will pass along relevant results interested people who can use the information.

President's Report: Brent reported

- He stated that he would like to see the emphasis of our talking points start to focus on the library's strengths rather than its weaknesses. Now that some good things are happening for the Ridgecrest Branch we can be a more positive organization. He introduced the guest speaker.

Guest Speaker: Tera Moorehead presented information on Ridgecrest Regional Hospital's (RRH) Community Outreach and Services. These include exercise, companionship, fun, and other services for seniors; several support groups; and outreach to the community through presentations and the annual Health Fair. The next Health Fair is coming up on March 9th. She provided pamphlets with further information and contact information for meetings. Brent thanked her for coming, and also thanked RRH CEO Jim Suver for the \$3K donation that made the inside scrolling sign in the library possible. He presented an FRBL book bag to her and also one for Jim. He also sent to Jim a rare copy of *Kern's Movers and Shakers*.

Treasurer's Report: Nani reported

- She provided copies of the January 2019 FRBL Financial Report. The Salesroom brought in an average of \$221/week in January and Pizza Factory sent \$163 for two months.
- The 2018 annual audit will be done on March 2nd by Brent and Naomi Norris. Naomi assisted with the audit last year.

Vice-President, Membership Report: Carol Pearson reported

- Since our last meeting, there have been 2 new members and 7 renewals. One renewal was a business.
- She liked the new design for the membership form that Judy Fair-Spalding made for the newsletter and is having some printed. They will be on a different color paper (pink) than the previous version (green).

Vice-President, Book Sales Report: Janice reported

- She is ready to start taking sign-ups for volunteer shifts on the sale dates. Please contact her.
- Brent added that there is potential for taking credit cards at the sales and maybe even in the library sales room. There was discussion on how this would work, how much it would cost, and how much training would be involved for cashiers and volunteers. Most agreed that this is worth pursuing and Brent promised to bring more information.
- Barbara reported that flyers for the sale are at the printers and will be available soon.

Newsletter: Deadline for next newsletter - April 28, 2019.

Old Business:

- Ballot Initiative - Carol distributed copies of the letter Linda Fiddler received from the Kern County Auditor-Controller-Clerk-Elections Office on January 24, 2019, along with the Petition Result Breakdown they provided. Discussion followed regarding the results and the reasons why signatures were rejected. It was agreed that we need to tell the FRBL members that the initiative failed. Brent asked Carol to start an email discussion for input on how that should be worded and presented.
- Brent reminded us that in spite of the failed petition, the future is looking good for the library. Dynamic good things are happening, though the staff is still underpaid. Vicki added that patrons also want more open hours.
- A motion was made, and seconded, that an email would be developed by Carol and Brent with the purpose of informing FRBL members about the initiative and positive changes in

the library. There were no objections and the motion was passed. Brent noted that a letter to the editor or press release for the local newspapers would develop out of this too.

New Business:

- Janice and some of the annex team will have a table at the Community Yard Sale. They will be selling books and handing out flyers about the spring sale.
- Brent mentioned that the Molina Foundation publishes a book titled *On My Way to Kindergarten* that would make a wonderful give-away at the EEF. It includes activities, songs, crafts, and games to help children get ready to learn in kindergarten. After discussion, a motion was made to spend approximately \$200.00 plus shipping to purchase 4 boxes containing 35 books each as handouts at the EEF for children starting kindergarten in 2019. The motion was seconded and passed. Charissa indicated that there would be a sticker in the books that will let people know they are being provided by FRBL.
- Brent stated that the remodel may cause a need for different types of furniture in different spaces. These may become a priority on the wish list as well. Suzette said she will help the community realize they can do more to help with the needs that arise.
- Brent read a quotation from John Steinbeck's *East of Eden*.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. Members were encouraged to eat lunch at Pizza Factory or Beanster's to support the fundraiser.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lupei, Secretary

Update: On February 21, 2019, Carol started the email discussion regarding the best strategy to reach members and the public with news of the failure of the library initiative. She shared an email from Linda Fiddler that indicates further questions about the results may be raised. Roy pointed out that we should take our time to respond to the news rather than reacting to it. Brent asked Dave Burdick to compose an article for the next newsletter, deadline April 28th, compiling the most accurate information available at that time. Dave agreed.