



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
Board Meeting Minutes, August 19, 2022

Board members present: Barbara Lupei, Carol Pearson, Peggy Johnson, and Sandy Bradley.
Library Administrator: absent, **Guests:** Jerry Bradley and Dave Burdick

The meeting was called to order at 2:30pm.

Background:

- On August 14, 2022 Brent Clark Palmer announced that he was going to sign a lease on behalf of the FRBL for a storefront space on Balsam Street. He added that he had a donation promised that would cover the first year's rent. When told that he would need to bring a copy of the agreement to the board meeting on August 17th for discussion and a vote, as he was not empowered to act on his own to make commitments for the FRLB, he refused to do so. He cancelled the meeting on the 17th and said he would still sign the agreement on the 20th.
- Later on the 17th he resigned from the board. On the 18th Carol told the board that she called Brent and helped convince him to reverse his decision to resign. We did not hear that from him though until the 19th.
- Because of previous erratic behavior from Brent, Barbara sought advice from Past President Sandy Bradley. At this point, when the board has been depleted from nine members to only four, Sandy exercised her right to become an active participant as Past President to help us through this emergency. She called on the expertise of Jerry Bradley and Dave Burdick. Jerry recently completed 5 years as President of the Board of Directors of the Maturango Museum. Dave Burdick served several years on the Sierra Sands School Board and is a Past President of the FRBL. He has served on other volunteer boards plus a couple of national and international committees where he represented the U. S. Navy.

Discussion:

- Carol opened the discussion by reiterating that Brent was not going to resign. She said she had toured the space on Balsam Street and helped to take measurements. She said the back door is narrow with an inside step and a wall to step around that would make it difficult for larger deliveries like shelving and bigger boxes.
- Carol was reminded that any agreement/contract signed by anyone without approval by the Board of Directors has no force of law. Although the board might agree with a store front for book sales, such a proposal had never been presented to the board with a business plan and a justification for changing the organization's annual budget plan or purpose.
- Sandy Bradley, Past President, moved that the board remove Brent Clark Palmer from the Board of Directors of the FRBL. Peggy seconded the motion. With four members present, the vote was 3 in favor, and 1 against.
- Discussion proceeded on whether Brent could be welcomed as Vice President of Book Sales. This could be a much better position for him in the organization. However, it could only be considered if he were willing to work within the bylaws of the organization, participate in future planning with respect for board members and Robert's Rules of Order, and turn over all documents, keys, funds, and other materials related to his former position as president.

Interim Board Members:

- Sandy moved to elect Jerry Bradley interim President until the election in November, and Dave Burdick interim Member-at-Large until the election in November. This motion was seconded and passed with a vote of 3 to 0. (Peggy had to leave the meeting a little early.)
- Dave recommended an extra newsletter or announcement be sent to FRBL members to let them know we are actively seeking new board members. Carol agreed to send each person present a membership list to help us think of people to contact.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm. The meeting set by Brent for August 24th has been canceled and no further meetings have been set at this time. Further information will be sent out by email.

Addendum: At 4:33pm on the same day, Brent sent an email stating that he had retained an attorney and was suing all board members for damages unless they resigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lupei, Secretary