



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
Board Meeting Minutes, April 21, 2021

Board members present: Brent Clark Palmer, Patricia Walters, Nani Banks, Carol Pearson, and Peggy Johnson. **Library Administrator:** Charissa Wagner. **Guests:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. The agenda was amended and approved. The minutes/recording of the March 24, 2020 meeting were approved.

Librarian's Report: Charissa reported
Update:

- We are open (50% capacity); Mon-Thu 12-6 pm
- Doors unlocked. Masks still required, no time limits, max 40 people (plus staff) and 4 public computers
- Now 13 branches open: Arvin, Beale, Delano, Frazier Park, Kern River Valley, Rathbun, Ridgecrest, Rosamond, Southwest, Taft, Tehachapi, Wasco, plus Shafter (through June)
- Distanced furniture placement in the branch
- Restrooms/water fountain available again
- Donations allowed again (one box/person/day); trying to encourage Wed 1-3 pm
- Volunteers allowed again as part of capacity limits
 - Betty: FRBL Ongoing Sale shelf
 - Someone to transport donations from branch to Book Dispensary either as needed or weekly

Makerspace

- Purchased new computer desks to set up more in makerspace area
- Received Oculus Quest 2 Virtual Reality headset
- Waiting on a few more items; finalizing waivers and training (and tracking)

Services

- Curbside continues (significantly limited interest now)
- Workforce Development assistance still available
- Feed the Read (via Meals on Wheels) starting soon (only 1 interested so far)
- Lunch at the Library started (from No Kid Hungry Grant in select communities- Arvin, Beale, Delano, Wasco)

Charissa also expressed support for a Rural Libraries Relief Fund because not every Kern County Library branch is fortunate enough to have a Friend's group. Each Friend-less branch currently gets a very minimal amount of support from the "Big Friends" (Friends of the Kern County Library, Inc.) and this is a way to be able to provide more funding to more branches in Kern County and other places.

President's Report: Brent reported

We are making progress in involving some key local creators and makers in establishing user groups for the makerspace equipment. Ridgecrest's only podcaster will be visiting our board meeting next month and is interested in being on our board as a member-at-large with a makerspace focus.

We have begun putting the focus on our new building on book sales and a weekly membership drive. It looks promising to increase our cashflow to move away from a sorting culture to a retail-focused effort akin to the former book sale room.

We have opportunities for growth that dovetail nicely with the coming re-incorporation which will be finalized by the end of the year.

Vice President of Book Sales - vacant

- **Treasurer's Report:** Nani reported
- She provided the financial report for March 2021. She highlighted income and expenses from the report. If all goes as planned, the audit of the 2019 and 2020 books will take place on May 14th. The auditors are Naomi Norris and Kathy Killinger.

Vice-President, Membership Report: Carol reported

- Since our last meeting I have logged in eight renewals and one new member.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lupei, Secretary