



**Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library**  
Board Meeting Minutes, August 21, 2019

**Board members present:** Brent Clark Palmer, Carol Pearson, Peggy Johnson, Patricia Walters, Janice Norcross, Nani Banks, Brian Wall and Barbara Lupei. **East Kern Regional Library Supervisor:** Shalyn Pineda. **Library Administrator:** Charissa Wagner. **Guests:** Barbara Roberts, and Jim Simmons of the Stockdale Group.

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. The agenda was approved. The minutes of the May 15, 2019 meeting were approved.

Brent opened the meeting with kudos for our Library Supervisor, who was back at work in the library within minutes of the earthquakes and absolutely dedicated to restoring services to the community. He also noted his appreciation for Shalyn's support and hard work with the organization and clean-up efforts.

**Librarian's Report:** Charissa reported

- The Summer Reading Challenge (SRC) was a great success in spite of interference from Mother Nature.
  - People seemed to enjoy using Beanstack to record their books and/or time spent reading.
  - SRC finishers for our branch (by category) included: 83 Early Learners (0-4 yrs), 125 Children (5-10 yrs) 42 Tweens (11-12 yrs) 33 Teens (13-18 yrs), and 150 Adults. Last year there were 99 adult finishers so there was quite an increase this year. There were 19 finishers in Inyokern.
  - An average of 55 lunches per day were served in the library.
  - In Inyokern, SRC was cancelled the week after the earthquakes, which caused a miscalculation in the average number of lunches served per week. She hopes that lunches will be continued in Inyokern next summer.
- The new double book drop is being wrapped this week. The wrap features a desert design in addition to the Kern County Library logo. The county has plans to re-purpose the old book drop at a bookmobile stop.
- The new tables in the meeting room with the flip tops are much more versatile than the old ones. These are the tables purchased with the Peck Family Foundation grant. The tables and the book drop were ordered through the business office resulting in a significant savings over a direct order.
- Amnesty for fines is running for the entire month of August this year. Children can read and adults can donate library supplies to clear fines.
- The "Read Your Way to the Desert Empire Fair" reading challenge for free entry to the fair starts on September 1st. Children and teens (students) aged 5 through 18 can participate and use Beanstack or a paper log as preferred. Kids 5 to 9 can read 5 picture books, and tweens and teens can read 2 chapter books to qualify for free tickets. As an alternative, students of any age can read 20 minutes per day for 20 days to qualify. Readers get to choose their own books.
- The Veterans' Stand Down is scheduled for September 20th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kerr-McGee Center. Brent volunteered to man the library table. She added that a Community Conversations with Veterans 2020 Grant, sponsored by the California Center for the Book,

has been awarded to the branch that will provide 65 titles (arriving in the fall) plus funds for events, a speaker, or additional documents.

- **Makerspace:** Shalyn reported that the implementation has been delayed because of negotiations with general services. They are holding out for more...carpet, paint, etc. for all six branches... but the price quoted is too high. Negotiations continue as they look into using a private contractor (from Bakersfield) as an alternative. Meanwhile, it has been decided to drop the laser cutters because of the ventilation requirements. They have added podcasting equipment instead. Adobe Suite and button makers will also be added to the list.

**President's Report:** Brent reported

- He spoke about working with so many community volunteers after the earthquakes and what a privilege it was.
- **Annex:** He has been working with Dave Ostash and Brian Auld of the SSUSD. They designated the old Sears space for FRBL but then it was red tagged.
- He asked attendees how they found out about the FRBL and why they got involved with the Friends. Everyone on the board took turns describing why they joined and became involved with Friends. He stated why he lives in Ridgecrest and his desire to be of service to the community. This is the organization he chose to work with because he values libraries.

**Treasurer's Report:** Nani reported

- She noted that the cash box in the sales room had been broken into more than once during May in spite of repairs. A new tamper-proof lock box was donated and installed in June. The estimated loss of revenue due to the theft in May was calculated at an average of \$80/week when compared to the average weekly May revenue in 2018. Revenue was also low in June (\$29/wk) and July (\$61/wk) as compared to the average weekly income in June and July of 2018.
- She provided copies of the July 2019 FRBL Financial Report. The salesroom brought in an average of \$105/week.

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

- Since the last meeting there have been 3 new members and 30 renewals.

**Vice-President, Book Sales Report:** Brian reported

- Brian reminded all that we stored tables, furnishings and supplies in the old Sears building before it was red tagged. We need to be sure we can get to these items when they are needed.
- The annex team is preparing to hold a smaller scale sale at the Community Yard Sale on September 21st at the Desert Empire Fairgrounds.
- They are also preparing for a sale outside the library, and inside the community room, in October. They will need more volunteers to help move boxes from storage to the sale area. Helpers from VX-9, the Sea Cadets, and Boy Scouts were suggested as options.
- The difficulty of sorting items for the sale from the storage pods was discussed and Barbara suggested that the fall sale could be cancelled this year for that reason. Other board members supported this option. The decision was left up to Brian and the annex team.

**Old Business:**

- Brent reminded us that we still have to move the book sale out of the community room to make room for the makerspace. Our long term goal is to expand the library and bring the book sale back into the library.

**New Business:**

- Peggy could use a volunteer for the sales room shift on Tuesdays from 1 to 3 p.m.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 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, September 18** at 10:00 a.m. at the Ridgecrest Library Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lupei, Secretary