



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
Board Meeting Minutes, October 16, 2019

Board members present: Brent Clark Palmer, Patricia Walters, Brian Wall and Barbara Lupei. **East Kern Regional Library Supervisor:** Shalyn Pineda. **Library Administrator:** Charissa Wagner. **Guests:** Betty Miller of the Rotary Club and Robert Shaw.

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. The agenda was approved. The minutes of the September 18, 2019 meeting were approved.

Librarian's Report: Charissa reported

- Finishers are claiming their prizes in the "Read Your Way to the Desert Empire Fair" reading challenge. Forty-three of the 100 tickets available for free entry to the fair have been claimed at this time.
- There was a good turn-out for the Ridgecrest Young Professionals Network meeting on September 24th. They provided good feedback on adult activities in the library and some volunteered to help with the makerspace.
- The Greater Bakersfield Legal Aid visit served 16 people on topics of tenant's rights and guardianship. Several people confused guardianship with conservatorship and they could not be helped on this visit as it did not fit within the expertise of the GBLA team sent this month. That topic may be covered in a subsequent visit.
- Discussion meetings of the youth book and the picture book versions of "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind," by William Kamkwamba, have taken place in the library. The adult discussion is yet to come, and the film will be shown.
- The Thank-A-Vet art card project kicks off on November 1st and runs through the 16th with card making supplies available when the library is open. Kits are also available to take home or for scouts, classrooms or other youth group meetings. The cards will be distributed to veterans in Kern County in honor of their service at Veteran's Day. Last year the branch submitted 200 cards.
- The Kern County Foundation is co-hosting "Jumpstart" on October 24th in Bakersfield. The program will introduce non-profit organizations to new and improved methods of fundraising to help them become more productive. Perhaps someone from the Kern County Friends can attend and share information with their sub groups.
- Diana Eggleton of the Literacy Council of the IWV attended the Pro Literacy Conference recently where she learned she should be working more closely with her local library. Their hand-outs are displayed in the library, but there are more things they can do in the future.
- Charissa added that she plans to attend local veteran services group meetings to get input from them on what type of programs they would like to have in the library. She has lots of ideas to suggest, and their input will help assure that the grant money is put to the best use.

President's Report: Brent reported

- After a four-month legal struggle where Brent recruited an attorney to represent us pro bono, The distribution is \$29,792.77 from the estate of Elizabeth "Elise" Starr, sister to our former board Treasurer, John Starr. The money was originally going to go to the Business Office of the County (as stated in her will), but we were able to demonstrate that her intent was to leave the money to charity. Special thanks to former board president Dave

Burdick and to Robert Alan Shaw for their testimonials and assistance. (Clarification from Charissa: The money from Elizabeth Starr's estate was stated in her will as going to the Kern County Library- Ridgecrest Branch, which would have placed it into the branch trust fund (formerly known as the book trust fund) for use by the Ridgecrest Branch Library.)

- Brent introduced Betty Miller of the Rotary Club of China Lake. She showed a film of the "Gifts that Give Hope Fair" in Lancaster, PA to introduce us to the concept of alternative gift fairs. The Rotary Club's local fair will be at the SpringHill Suites Conference Center on Saturday, November 16th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Attendees will receive our contact info and mission statement along with the shopping list as they enter. At our table they can pick out gift cards to give as gifts for the holidays. There will be one check-out station for all the charitable organizations at the fair. The Rotary will distribute funds, probably in January, with a 0% fee. They will have a table with a black cover that we can decorate. We will meet many new people and hopefully generate new memberships and donations as well. This is a brand new event for the Rotary Club...a new way to Pay It Forward and Walk the Talk.

Treasurer's Report: Brent reported for Nani

- The monthly income was: \$507.71 in the salesroom, \$137.10 from the Community Yard Sale, and \$377.00 from United Way. Monthly expenses were: \$18.70 *Swapsheet* book sale ad, \$44.38 bankers boxes and table covers, \$100.00 Chamber of Commerce annual membership, and \$41.55 *NYT* monthly charge. YTD total income continues to exceed YTD expenses.
- The salesroom total for the month of September was \$507.71, an average of \$126.93 per week, which is up from \$114.00 for September of 2018 and down from \$156.00 for September of 2017.
- Brent reminded us that the Fall sale fundraiser total deposit was delayed because the coin counter at the credit union was broken. Another reason to purchase a coin counter for the treasurer. He said he would take care of this. The total without the change was \$1100.00.

Vice-President, Membership Report: Barbara reported for Carol

- Since the last meeting there have been 3 new members and 17 renewals, all occurring at our sale last Saturday.

Vice-President, Book Sales Report: Brian reported

- Before Brian started his report, Brent stated how truly grateful we are for all the work he has done to put on the Fall Book Sale without the availability of the annex.
- The Community Yard Sale on Saturday the 21st started well when Teresa Lloyd helped them get moved to the center of the hall, with three tables, where they had much more visibility compared to the corner spot they were assigned.
- The Fall Sale, on Saturday, October 12th, included a lot more logistics than usual to get transportation from the *Swapsheet* space and the pods and get set up at the library. There were 8 or 10 FRBL volunteers and Sea Cadets to help with this part plus volunteer cashiers. One new cashier was Ike Fujiwara and he did a great job. The FRBL received a discount on the U-Haul truck and the loan of a canopy. It was a perfect day. There were a lot of lessons learned. In addition, the annex team re-organized the pods so that the boxes are in a logical order and there is an aisle down the center allowing access to the boxes they need.

Old Business:

- Nothing much has changed with the annex situation. Brent remains 80% sure that we will get space from the SSUSD. He is still exploring other locations.
- Patricia reported that all is going well with plans for the volunteer luncheon. She asked Brent if the invitation would be ready soon. He said they would. Supervisors of volunteers will send out invitations. We can arrive at 11:00 a.m. to set up the buffet line and are asking people to arrive at 11:30 am.

New Business:

- The Little Free Library in Upjohn Park was vandalized and left in pieces on the ground. The post is fine but the box needs to be replaced. Brian is looking into replacing it.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 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, November 20th** at 10:00 a.m. at the Ridgecrest Library Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lupei, Secretary