



**Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library**  
Board Meeting Minutes, September 18, 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.

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. The agenda was approved. The minutes of the August 21, 2019 meeting were approved.

**Librarian's Report:** Charissa reported

- She passed around a photo of the new double book drop showing the wrap, which features a colorful desert scene. The delivery date has not been announced yet. The regularly scheduled delivery driver cannot bring it by himself so other arrangements need to be made.
- The Ridgecrest Young Professionals Network will hold their September 24th meeting at the library from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Charissa will provide information about library events for adults and provide a short Pub Trivia challenge.
- The One Book Project has begun featuring the book "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind," by William Kamkwamba. There is also a picture book version and a young readers version so that all ages can participate. Adult and youth discussion groups will be held in the Ridgecrest branch. The adult and youth books are available through Hoopla (as ebooks or audiobooks) with no waitlists. A film will be shown as well. All these events are in October. She provided the events calendar for details.
- Two adult programs, hosted by community members, are now regular events. The Let's Talk: Vermiculture, Composting, Gardening group meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. with a different topic for each meeting. The Great Decisions Discussion group meets the fourth Saturday of the month at 2:30 p.m. Briefing books are available in the library to review the monthly topic before the meeting and a short video is shown at the beginning of the meeting. The next topic will be trade with China. This program is also being marketed to high school students in related classes.
- The library will host a kiosk for the 2020 U.S. Census. The kiosk is an option for filling out the census, which will be predominantly online in 2020. (The kiosk may be a desktop computer, laptop computer, or tablet.) She hopes to schedule events related to family history and local history in conjunction with the local Family History Center and the Historical Society. Family stories might be recorded using the new podcasting equipment. Barbara asked if the KCL website could host podcasts. Shalyn wasn't sure, though she thought they did want to create a pod cast. It would be great if they could host an assortment of the best recordings from the branches as well.
- Charissa handed out copies of the Fall 2019 events list and the Fall 2019 *Word Play*.
- Finishers are starting to claim their prizes in the "Read Your Way to the Desert Empire Fair" reading challenge. The branch has 100 tickets for free entry to the fair, which should be plenty.
- 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. He welcomed anyone who would like to come sit with him. Charissa added that another grant, in addition to the one announced at the last meeting, has been awarded to the brand. The Veterans Connect

grant, starting in 2020, will provide funds for veteran-related materials, a laptop and printer for use during office hours for related purposes, and military/veteran themed items for marking the space as a veterans resource center. We will be working with volunteers to provide "office hours" for local veterans and their families to come in and get assistance.

- The August amnesty period brought a lot of people and late or missing books into the library. At the county level, \$31,000.00 in fines were waived and 349 items were returned. For our branch, \$2,100.00 in fines were waived and 36 items were returned. The highest fine waived in Ridgecrest was \$209.00 and the lowest was \$.50.
- She was invited to participate in a literacy event on the base, however, they are charging participants \$20.00 and requiring that they sign a contract. She could not do this as a representative of the county, so this event may not be a good option.
- She has also been invited to participate in the Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 26th from 4 to 6 p.m. at Kerr-McGee Center. She is thinking of "treats" other than candy that the children would enjoy before she commits. This is a free event for the community.
- Makerspace: Shalyn reported that the county architect visited the branch with positive results. Plans are set for the floor plan, paint for the community room, and replacing some carpet with laminate because of potential spills. The goal is to have it up and running by the end of the year. The county is putting out a bid for contractors. Charissa added that volunteers will be needed to move books when the shelves come down to rearrange the floor plan.

**President's Report:** Brent reported

- Annex: Dave Ostash has indicated he wants to continue the relationship between the FRBL and SSUSD. They do not expect old Sears space to be repaired until the end of the current school year. The theater at BHS is in the same situation, and having to find alternate locations for their productions.
- Peggy Breeden has offered a space (900 square feet) next to the Swap Sheet to the FRBL. Brian said she only offered it from Oct. 7-11 as a prep space for the fall sale. Brent talked to her later, though, and felt she might let us use it for our ongoing sale until we are able to move into a 2,000 square foot space. It is so great to have the mayor as one of our supporters. He couldn't help but think of the plight of whole villages displaced in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- He will be working at the Veteran's Stand Down on Friday from 9 to 3. He is so excited to see the library serving veterans. Many libraries are hiring social workers to help people in the library who are homeless or have drug problems or mental illness.
- He is talking to the Ridgecrest Addiction Awareness about having hours in the library as well.
- Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance is willing to send a representative to the library once a month to offer legal advice. This could be publicized through organizations who serve the poor, homeless, battered women, etc. rather than through newspapers for Facebook. The more people get the idea that the library is the place to come for that information, the more organizations will want to partner with the library.

**Treasurer's Report:** Nani reported

- She provided copies of the August 2019 FRBL Financial Report. The salesroom total for the month was \$703.08, an average of \$140/week, down from \$231/week for August of 2018 and \$235/week for August of 2017. We suffered a similar decline in July compared to the preceding two years. A donation of \$150.00 came in from the Visalia Horse and Readers group.

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

- Since the last meeting there have been 2 new members and 5 renewals. Two businesses have not renewed after mail and phone reminders, so she plans to visit them. Brent offered to help with that.

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

- Plans are in place for the Community Yard Sale on Saturday the 21st at the Fair Grounds. They will be able to move the books over on Friday. He has made arrangements to get into the old Sears store to pick up items they need for the sale. Brent is making a table sign. Barbara updated handouts that need to be printed and cut. These make people aware of the upcoming Fall Sale. Dart will pick up any unwanted books at the end of the day.
- The Fall Sale will be one day only, on Saturday, October 12th, in the community room and outside the library. The sale team is expecting to rent a truck unless other arrangements can be made. The truck will cost about \$50.00. They can unload and set up in the community room after 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 11th. They will set up outside early on Saturday morning.

**Old Business:**

- Magazine subscriptions are being negotiated through W.T. Cox Subscription Services this year. Charissa has worked with them before and they have very good customer service. They are giving us a 14% discount on pricing. At this time, the list includes 51 titles for approximately \$3K. The FRBL budgeted \$5K for magazines this year, so there will be some savings on this line item. Nani will be able to write one check for all the magazines. We discussed dropping the print *New York Times* as the W.T. Cox agreement will include the Sunday issue in print, and the county now has the electronic version. Nani agreed to cancel that subscription. Charissa recommended *Book Page*, a magazine of book news and reviews, that could be handed out in the library. Fifty issues per month cost \$31.00 per month. The board agreed this would be a good addition to the W.T. Cox list.

**New Business:**

- Volunteer Luncheon: The date was set for November 4th, a Monday, from 12 to 1 p.m. Patricia has secured a room at the Maturango Museum at no charge. They will provide set up and clean up. The lunch will be a pot luck, with people asked to bring either a main dish or a salad/side dish. Brent will design an invitation/flyer to hand to volunteers and emails will be sent out as well. It was suggested that Dave Ostash be invited and introduced at the luncheon but not expected to give a speech. Library staff will be invited but will not be expected to bring a dish since we would love to make it easier for them attend.
- The Rotary Club is planning a fundraiser where people can purchase/donate items on behalf of other people. Sandy Bradley approached the library and discussed gift ideas with Charissa, e.g. supplies for children's activities or books.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 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, October 16th** at 10:00 a.m. at the Ridgecrest Library Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lupei, Secretary