



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
Board Meeting Minutes, January 15, 2020

Board members present: Brent Clark Palmer, Patricia Walters, Nani Banks, Carol Pearson, and Barbara Lupei. **Library Administrator:** Charissa Wagner. **Guests:** Terri Middlemiss and Sharon Smith.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. The agenda was amended and approved. The minutes of the November 20, 2019 meeting were approved.

Librarian's Report: Charissa was absent but provided a written report read by Brent.

- Homebound delivery service - Still needs volunteers including a coordinator (someone has expressed interest); selectors, to choose materials based on submitted preferences; and delivery, based on how much time available for deliveries and possible geographic location, every 3 weeks.
- Simply Fun host - Looking for person(s) to host party in February. Host gets credit and non-profit gets credit toward purchasing games. These are high-quality educational games for all ages. A flyer was circulated.
- Veteran's Resource Center - a soft opening was held in December. Carol and Nick Coy are currently manning the table. They are working on establishing regular hours for volunteers, but the information is always available. The current location is temporary. A grand opening will be held when it is moved to the permanent location, after the floor plan is shifted. Books have come in from both grants with more still to come.
- Summer Reading Challenge - The theme this summer is "Dig Deeper: Read, Investigate, Discover". She would like to add a few dates of "How To Festivals" where people share how to do something (anything from origami crane to yoga poses to slime making to folding cloth napkins to dancing flamenco) with all supplies provided. SRC will be run same as last year with Beanstack online and/or paper logs and scratch-off tickets for those completing more sets of reading requirements for their age group.
- Lunch @ the Library - is confirmed for 8 weeks at the branch, 6/2 through 7/24. It is also confirmed for Inyokern PENDING approval/interest from the school. She has contacted the principal but not heard back yet. Patricia's sorority will take the lead on the library/FRBL side for the SRC in Inyokern and lunch based on interest. Patricia mentioned lunch problems experienced in Inyokern including not enough food because so few children came the Wednesday after the 7.1 earthquake and the SSUSD kitchen used that count as a prediction of the following week; bland sandwiches; no choices, poor attitude from the kitchen staff member. Brent said he and/or Charissa would talk to the person in charge of the kitchen and do their best to get these problem solved.
- AWE Early Literacy Station - We voted in November to purchase a new station and software, but this purchase has been halted. KCL Computer Services wants a different system purchased for multiple locations. Their preferred system is not proprietary and they will be able to service the computers as needed.
- Census - Themed activities from January through April will be held at all branches. A sample brochure of activities was passed around along with a sample brochure explaining why the census is important and how it will work.

- Farmer's Market - The library will have a table at the market once a month from January through April from 9:00 am to 1 pm if anyone can volunteer to help out. The dates are 1/25, 2/22, 3/28, and 4/11. The purpose is to promote the census, the library, and the FRBL. Set up is at 8:15 am.
- GLBA - The December Renter's Rights workshop and consultations went well. It was more directly productive than the previous attempt. Their next visit has not been scheduled yet, but will probably be in February at the earliest.
- Makerspace update - Still waiting on update from General Services. They were issuing Job Order Contracts to get quotes (in the fall). Asked to wait until after 1/10. Shalyn asked for update yesterday but nothing yet.
- Story Walk update - She estimates \$6K for the aluminum posts and frames from Barking Dog exhibits, (A brochure was passed around.) plus concrete and miscellaneous supplies. Need someone to install (possible Eagle Scout project?) and people to get story pages prepared/laminated (possibly at SSUSD ERC) and switched out (possibly Gateway Elementary's anchored 4 Life program or a scout group).

President's Report: Brent reported

- Annex update - He met recently with Dr. David Ostash of the SSUSD about the old Sears building. Dave still wants to work with us and wants a win for everyone. He suggested we could begin to store materials in the building if we repaired at least one of the two roll up doors at our cost. Sharon Smith noted that the space would be great, but she has not seen any working lights, cooling, heat, or bathroom in the space. It will be expensive to maintain because it is so large. Who will pay? Barbara stated concerns about putting money into rehab of that space without a lease or contract in place. Brent reminded us of the possible Innovation Hub that has funding and might buy that space to provide low rent spaces for innovative entrepreneurs and non-profit organizations. There is still the possibility of a building on Inyokern Road near Norma that was offered by Nancy Saxton for our annex. It needs a major clean out and she has not started on this yet. It would be a good location for the on-going sale and the semi-annual sales.
- Red Rock Books - He spoke to Ann Rizzardini, the owner, about the possibility of the FRBL having a storefront on-going sale. Even though we can offer much lower prices, she does not consider us as competition to her store since we do not offer special orders, new books, or a large selection of gift items.
- Fundraising update - He will approach Jim Suver at RRH this year for a donation since we had a lot come in last year.
- Federal tax id - Brent reminded us that we use the tax id of the Friends of the Kern County Library as a sub-group of that organization. However, this has posed a problem when he has put a lot of work into grant applications and then had the main group say they will not do their part to finish the process. There have also been issues when our group is working to influence legislation on our own. They could also claim money we earn as theirs since we use their tax id. The options seem to be, 1. Leave the main group and form our own non-profit, or 2. Continue working within the main group but obtain our own tax id. A motion was made that Brent should speak with a lawyer to discuss getting a tax id for the FRBL. The motion was seconded and passed. It was agreed that if further discussion, action, or motions are appropriate before the next meeting, doing this by email is permissible. Patricia and Terri requested a text message to let them know they should check their email if this is an issue.

Vice President of Book Sales - Brian was not present, Brent reported

- Brian is now working on the base.
- Dave Ostash also mentioned that his workers at the annex site had been startled by homeless people hanging out around the pods. He was concerned that this was going to cause problems. Sharon mentioned that they rarely saw them during the day but didn't see any

damage or problems. The pods just give them some shelter from the wind and the view of people driving by.

- Sharon mentioned that about 200 boxes of books were lost in the snow and rain around the holidays. Most of this material was trash anyway. They get a lot of donations that go directly into the trash.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Nani reported
- She provided financial reports for November and December as well as the Year End report for 2019. She highlighted income and expenses from each report. The final balance as of December 31, 2019, showed income exceeded expenses by about \$46K. All agreed this is great news in a year that included earthquakes and the loss of our annex space. It also brings us closer to FRBL support of expanding the library building.

Vice-President, Membership Report: Carol reported

- Since November there have been 14 renewals and no new members. She also noted that the Pecks donated \$1,000.00.

Old Business:

- Barbara offered to coordinate volunteers willing to work on installation of the Little Free Library in Upjohn Park.
- Patricia reminded us that the LFL in Inyokern has been damaged and repaired twice. Now that the Senior Center is closed, it would be wise to relocate the LFL. She and her sorority sisters will consider locations and make a recommendation. Terri has ideas too.
- Brent conducted the swearing in of the new Board of Directors for 2020.

New Business:

- A tap room is opening on Balsam Street. The owner, Caiti Whitfield, is anxious to have a cozy corner with a bookshelf and has agreed to have FRBL books for sale and a cash box on that shelf.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. Members were encouraged to eat lunch at Pizza Factory or Beanster's to support the fundraiser.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lupei, Secretary