



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

**Board members present:** Sandy Bradley, Carol Pearson, Peggy Johnson, Patricia Walters, Vicki Siegel, Janice Norcross, Nani Banks, Barbara Lupei and Brent Clark Palmer (in-coming President). **Library Administrator:** Charissa Wagner. **Guests:** Shalyn Pineda (KCL East Kern Regional Supervisor), Curtis Sarad (library staff), and Roy Parris.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. The agenda was approved. The minutes of the November 14, 2018 meeting were approved.

**Librarian's Report:** Charissa introduced Shalyn who also had input on the following announcements.

- The new fiber network is not operational yet. Just waiting for SJVLS to turn it on.
- The staff enjoyed the winter recess. The book drop was sometimes overflowing even though no materials were due during the recess. Most likely many people came by thinking the library would be open even though the closed dates were well publicized.
- SSUSD has confirmed Lunch at the Library for the upcoming Summer Reading Challenge (SRC). There is potential for lunch service one day a week at the Inyokern SRC but that is not confirmed yet.
- Zip Books - The Ridgecrest Branch has been the top user of Zip Books with 8 requests filled so far. If the books are returned to the library they will become part of the collection. These books are paid for by the California State Library. They have received enough funding to extend the program for another 4 years.
- The Ridgecrest Branch will be the first to receive the maker-space provided by the DoD Office of Economic Adjustment grant for libraries in east Kern County. The location within the library has not been chosen yet, but they will work on that today. Some equipment will require training and monitoring. Shalyn's hope is to have it up and running before the beginning of SRC.
- Charissa handed out copies of the Winter 2018 edition of *Wordplay*, a glossy 11-page events calendar with news about the Ridgecrest Branch and tons of other free resources provided by the KCL.
- A new smart phone app has been developed that will allow users to access ValleyCat. There are still a few bugs to work out so it has not been widely publicized yet. It allows a family to track all of their cards on one phone. It can be downloaded from any of the usual phone app sources.
- Beale is putting together Activity Kits for families and this might be a good idea for the FRBL to purchase. The kits consist of a bag containing a story book, a non-fiction book, and an activity. Each kit would cover a different subject. Families could take the kits out, however they will not be in ValleyCat so they might not always be returned. The difficulty with creating a record for each kit is the varying prices for replacement plus the fact that the fee is not included on the approved fees list. Beale funded their kits through a grant.
- Shalyn brought up see-through window cling signs and Charissa passed around some pictures of samples. She felt the signs would help people realize this building is a library since some folks still don't get it. These signs are reasonably priced and would help modernize the look of the building. Brent suggested only placing them on the children's side because the windows on the other side offer a nice view of the park.

- Sandy mentioned her hope to put a programmable sign outside the library. Shalyn said she would like to see us update the wooden sign in front of the library which would cost about \$4K from the book trust.
- Discussion of the book trust followed. Charissa said she will particularly need it for filling in subject areas after the non-fiction books are weeded, and for replacing lost and damaged books. Activity kits, if we decide to go ahead with those, would come from the book trust as well.
- Shalyn announced that the book drop will be getting a decorative wrap with an artistic design. The book drop will have to travel to Bakersfield for the make-over so the branch will have to make do with a smaller book drop while it is gone. It was mentioned that a larger book drop would be nice and Shalyn told us it would cost \$5K, which would come from the book trust.
- Shalyn told us more about Dinner in the Stacks, held annually by the Library Foundation at the Beale Branch. Each table has a topic and a speaker so there is great conversation around a subject the diners are interested in discussing. The dinner is formal and also includes raffles and an auction. Brent said that he felt the book sales were successful here, but he was willing to talk to the mayor about support the idea. Sandy said many other local groups use dinners as fundraisers. Vicki suggested that someone write an article in the newsletter about putting FRBL in a member's will or trust. Charissa is seeking permission to hold a murder mystery in the library, and Brent suggested a tea party on Mother's Day for the moms with children still at home.

**President's Report:** Sandy Bradley reported

- This is her last meeting as President, and she wanted to tell everyone she feels fortunate having worked with such talented fundraisers. She will be out of town on the day of the next meeting, but she plans to continue working with the Friends, particularly on a couple of projects. She wants to work with Brent on a garage sale that will run with the spring sale, and she wants to create a video about the Friends, the library, Kern County, etc. Now that she has more time, she will be able to work on these interests.

**Treasurer's Report:** Nani reported

- She provided copies of the Proposed Budget 2019, the December 2018 Financial Report, and the Branch Financial Report. There was a question regarding the latter report showing that the Certificates of Deposit (CD) balance had jumped from approx. \$16.8K to \$32K. (She later reported by email that in March 2018 we transferred another \$16K to the Edward Jones CD account, and transferred \$820.00 to the Alta One Savings account which meant a round number of \$32K would be invested at Edward Jones.) The Salesroom brought in an average of \$199/week in December (later corrected to \$265 because the Library was closed for one week).
- Brent reported that he will no longer charge the FRBL for his web hosting work while he is President.

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

- Since our last meeting, there have been no new members and 19 renewals. Six of those renewals took advantage of the offer to renew at the 2018 rate.
- She will take care of adding more money to the postage account for the newsletter.

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

- Janice has started advance planning for the book sale. She provided copies of possible flyers, articles, ads, and calendar announcements. Sandy thanked her for the great start and said the publicity folks would finalize the materials and follow the schedule for releasing them, keeping her in the loop throughout the process.

**Newsletter:** Deadline for next newsletter - January 25, 2019.

**Old Business:**

- Vicki shared that the order of book bags came in. She dropped some off at the annex for the next sale so they won't have to carry them back and forth.

**New Business:**

- Curtis introduced us to the concept of the Drag Queen Story Hour, which has become popular in libraries country-wide and is endorsed by the American Libraries Association. See their website at [www.dragqueenstoryhour.org](http://www.dragqueenstoryhour.org). The story hour teaches self-acceptance. He is working with Alex Muya of Ridgecrest Pride to schedule a drag queen storyteller for the branch in June. That month is significant as the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots (that took place in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of New York City in protest of a police raid and served as a catalyst for the gay rights movement). He also shared that about 10% of the YA collection teaches equality, diversity, and inclusion. This is a particular area of interest to him. He also creates the displays of banned and challenged books.
- Vicki told Shalyn that it appears the trees around the library are not getting watered. Shalyn made a note and said she would follow up on it.
- Sandy turned the meeting over to the incoming President, Brent Clark Palmer. He read the following statement that he wrote while reflecting on why he chose the FRBL as the community organization he would dedicate his time and skills to. "A library exists as a place where people can find parts of themselves that they didn't know existed. A library is not always championing what is popular or that which gives a person a sense of certainty. To intellectually challenge a person, a library is a crucible of paradoxes, but need not be a crucible of conflict, for the soul has many facets. A presentation on the second amendment is as welcome as a demonstration of the first amendment. The written word is the original window into many worlds. To feel paradox, to feel uncertainty, is to look into lives and ways of life we have never known. A library is the launching point into the adventure of truly being alive. Not the stagnancy of knowing-it-all already. You can not be ignorant if you can imagine a new, next world different in any way from the one before. Libraries are where anyone may have such dreams."

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 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, February 20th** at 10:00 a.m. at the Ridgecrest Library Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lupei, Secretary