

**Friends of the Fresno County Public Library**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 27, 2025**  
Fig Garden

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Nancy Kast, Becky Brown, Shannon Wise, Butch Dies, Vicki Love, Brian Baker

**REGRETS:** Nick Andrade, Dan Dunklee, Rosa Huerta, Mark Kalchik, Jim Poptanich

**ABSENT:**

**ALSO PRESENT:** Susan Renfro, Sally Gomez, Terry Eckman, Brooke Payton

**1. CALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS**

- The meeting was called to order at 7:02 by President Shannon Wise.

**2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REGRETS AND EXCUSED ABSENCES**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 2024 MEETING**

- **Motion by:** Nancy Kast
- **Seconded by:** Shannon Wise
- **Carried**

**4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 2024 SPECIAL MEETING**

- **Motion by:** Butch Dies
- **Seconded by:** Shannon Wise
- **Carried**

**5. LIBRARY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REPORT – SUSAN RENFRO**

- The Pop-Up Prom Shop will take place on February 8 at Fig Garden.
- Clovis and Reedley update: Some interior finishing ideas have been presented, including floor finishings, some color schemes, and floorplans.
- Terry Eckman is the new Associate County Librarian.

**6. LIBRARY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REPORT – TERRY ECKMAN**

- A meeting has been held with Darden Architects and Harris Construction to talk about audio-visual and multi-use spaces for the new Library projects.
- The Selma remodel is in-progress, as well as Sanger's HVAC update. Sanger is intended to be finished by May 1, but there is no date for the wrap-up of the Selma project at this time.
- Politi: No definite updates at this time.
- Being limited to certain vendors has been an issue during all of these remodels and new building projects, so the Library is trying to secure contracts with more vendors, such as Demco, for the best price and availability.
- Central: The work supported by the infrastructure grant must be completed by March 2027. Electrical and lighting updates are still to come, but due to the cost and scope, this is a Public Works project.

- Nancy Kast asked how much of the Library’s funding came from federal sources, given President Trump’s recent executive orders and plans to cut funding. Sally Gomez and Terry Eckman concurred that, aside from a couple of programs, most funding came through local taxes and the California State Library, so while it might hurt to lose federal funding, it would likely not be devastating.
- There is a new IT Supervisor at the Library and a new person in charge of Purchasing at the County, so hopefully, existing technology issues in the branches can slowly be resolved.
- Gillis recently got a new fax machine and more are to come at other branches. Some federal government agencies still require that documents be sent via fax, so patrons have been asking for this resource.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

- **Annual meeting:** Depending on availability, our new plan is March 15 at Betty Rodriguez. Our proposed speaker is local author and professor, Dr. Christina Lynch.
- **Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library:** Brian Baker noted that there are tentative plans for a Fresno County kickoff on Valentine’s Day, probably at The Lighthouse for Children, but he will try to follow-up.

## 8. BOARD REPORTS

- **INTERIM PRESIDENT SHANNON WISE**
  - Branch Gatherings:** Shannon Wise noted that as of now, we’re looking at April for the next gathering and will ask the branches what they’d like to focus on. Shannon will be attending Kerman’s next meeting and will be trying to attend more throughout the County as soon as possible, including Sunnyside in February.
  - Measure B:** County Counsel has said that staff are allowed to provide factual information about Measure B and can post on their personal social media accounts, with disclaimers. Regarding Friends of the Library using Library facilities for meetings about Measure B, Sally Gomez will double-check on whether this is allowed. These meetings may need to be held off-site. Brooke Payton offered up Root Access Hackerspace as a potential option.
- **VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP AND NOMINATING – BECKY BROWN**
  - No report.
- **TREASURER—NICK ANDRADE**
  - Raffle permits:** We are currently working on the filings for our 2024 raffle permit. Going forward, we will no longer allow branches to hold raffles, considering the amount of work and record-keeping required.

## 9. OLD BUSINESS

- **Bylaws:** Sam Retton will post the Bylaws to the website and create a QR code for the Annual Meeting invitation so members can read them before the meeting.

- **Tower District Library Update:** Brooke Payton gave an update on her advocacy work, which will have been going on for two years in May. Last November, the Fresno City Council agreed to an ecological survey for the Tower District Specific Plan and Implementation Committee. The Plan now includes a library/museum nexus and mentions the health and equity benefits of adding a library to the area. The project's website now includes lots of media coverage, interviews, and a list of businesses and organizations in support of the project. City Council has also been provided with demographics for the area, and while they can't make the project happen, considering libraries are under the County's jurisdiction, their support might sweeten the deal for the County Board of Supervisors. The Library is always looking for new spaces, but they are required to be at least 5000 square feet and have at least 20 parking spaces and 2-3 restrooms. Brooke is currently eyeing a space on Olive and Vagedes, just barely within the boundaries of the Tower District. Brooke is also currently leading kids, teens, and adult crochet classes at Gillis. Gillis has also recently gotten a new community board, which currently features Bad Art from a teen program and will soon feature a found bookmark collection.

#### **10. BOOKSHOP UPDATE**

- The Bookshop recently purchased a new iPad to be used as a point-of-sale system.
- The shop has been super busy, with tons of donations coming in. Some days this month, sales have been double what they typically are.
- We are in need of another warehouse cleanup day, ideally on a weekend.

- **NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 24 at 7 PM at Fig Garden.**

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

- **Motion by:** Shannon Wise
- **Seconded by:** Becky Brown
- **Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.**

**Submitted by Sam Retton, Executive Assistant.**