

**Friends of the Fresno County Public Library  
Board Meeting Minutes  
October 24, 2023  
Hybrid Meeting—Zoom and Fig Garden Library**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Chris Estep, Nancy Kast, Becky Brown, Nick Andrade, Lyn Peters, Shannon Wise, Kristie Leyba, Jim Poptanich, Ashley Rice

**REGRETS:** Laura Kalchik, Mark Kalchik, Butch Dies, Stephen Mayu (resigned)

**ABSENT:** Dan Dunklee, Gary Cardaronella, Victor Sotelo, Rosa Huerta

**ALSO PRESENT:** Raman Bath, Sally Gomez, Terrence Eckman, Jen Cruz, Jason Scott

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

- Meeting called to order at 7:59 by President Chris Estep. The quorum was lost at 8:03.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 MEETING**

- **Motion:** To approve the minutes of September 26, 2023.
- **Motion By:** Lyn Peters
- **Seconded By:** Nancy Kast
- **Carried**

**3. LIBRARY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REPORT—RAMAN BATH**

- **Americans and the Holocaust**
  - i. The exhibit opens Sunday at Central and will remain on display until December 30. There will be added security.
  - ii. Fresno County Reads runs through November 30 and is separate from the exhibit, but the book selections were chosen to complement it. The books are on unlimited mode through the end of the year.
  - iii. There are programs coming up at Fresno State, Temple Beth Israel, and Woodward to go along with the exhibit.
  - iv. Nancy Kast asked about press coverage. Susan Renfro and Fae Giffen have decided to pull back a bit on press coverage due to the current political climate and have been following their community partners' leads, especially because Temple Beth Israel was recently vandalized.
- **Capital Projects and Branch Updates**
  - i. Central will be receiving a \$4.195 million grant to renovate the electrical work, windows, and roof. The County must match half the amount and the work must be done by 2027.
  - ii. There are currently 30 vacancies in the branches, but hiring is ongoing.
  - iii. The RFP (request for proposal) for Reedley will be done this month.
  - iv. Clovis is issuing an RFQ (request for quote) and the property swap will go before the Board of Supervisors in December.

- v. Politi: More news will be coming soon regarding the 99 Cents Only space. The coverage in the Fresno Bee has helped to make it a much bigger conversation.
- **Brandau’s Parents Matter Act**
  - i. The resolution will go before the Board of Supervisors on November 7 and isn’t technically a ban, but it comes close. It is based on the Huntington Beach resolution and the text will be up 72 hours before the meeting.
  - ii. Already, children under 8 are required by law to be accompanied by a guardian in the library, and Miller v. California made it illegal for obscene material to be allowed in libraries.
  - iii. There was some discussion about whether to identify as Friends of the Library members or not when speaking about the resolution. It was decided that while there was nothing wrong with mentioning volunteering with the library (as a Friends member or otherwise), when members speak, they are doing so as concerned citizens first.
  - iv. Public comment is generally limited to 3 minutes each and the resolution will be item #7. The meeting is at 9:30 AM.

#### 4. RATIFICATION OF EMAIL VOTE

- **Motion:** To approve the purchase of Fresno County Reads shirts, as agreed upon in an email vote.
- **Motion By:** Lyn Peters
- **Seconded By:** Shannon Wise
- **Carried**

#### 5. BOARD REPORTS

- **PRESIDENT CHRIS ESTEP**
  - i. **Recycling for the Bookshop**
    1. The Library has received several fines and the County has cancelled the contract with Waste Management.
    2. Because Friends of the Library doesn’t own the property the bookshop is located on, we would not be allowed to lock a bin, which means that we will keep running into the same issue of people putting non-recyclable items in the bin.
    3. This is now a potential worker’s compensation issue because if a volunteer is injured while transporting books to their car to recycle at home, the Library will be held responsible.
  - ii. **Zoom**
    1. We will no longer be offering a Zoom option after tonight's meeting.
  - iii. **Brews and Vines**
    1. The 2024 event will take place Thursday, May 9.
    2. Shannon Wise volunteered to help with the planning.
- **VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP—BECKY BROWN**

- i. **Nominating Committee**
      1. The committee will need to see who is up for reelection and find nominees before the February Annual Meeting.
      2. Kristie Leyba volunteered to assist.
  - **VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAM—KRISTIE LEYBA**
    - i. **DJ Mr. Leonard Program**
      1. As opposed to the program that has been in the works, DJ Mr. Leonard like to do something larger, modelled after the NPR Tiny Desk series, with music education and accompanying books.
      2. This will likely be better suited to a branch, likely Central.
  - **TREASURER—NICK ANDRADE**
    - i. The tax return is being prepared now and should be finished by the November 15 filing deadline.
    - ii. DonorPerfect is still in the works.
  - **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
    - i. **Compliance Committee:**
      1. The committee did not meet this month but is working to review the bylaws against a template.
      2. Kristie Leyba suggested that bylaw and policy meetings happen on a weekend during the daytime so that more board members can attend.
    - ii. **Job Descriptions for Branch Officers Taskforce:**
      1. The committee is currently drafting descriptions for the branch President and Vice President offices.
- 6. **BOOKSHOP UPDATE**
  - The bookshop recently made \$2800 in one month.
  - An ad for the bookshop has been placed in the Community Concert Band program to help drum up business.
  - The bookshop is always in need of volunteers.
- 7. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - **Branch Board Get-Together**
    - i. November 18 at Sunnyside from 10 AM to 12 PM.
    - ii. Branches that send at least two board members will receive \$100 in their branch accounts.
  - **NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 28 at 7:00 PM—Fig Garden Library**

Submitted by Sam Retton, Executive Assistant.