

**Friends of the Fresno County Public Library**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 23, 2024**  
Fig Garden Library

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Nancy Kast, Becky Brown, Kristie Leyba, Nick Andrade, Dan Dunklee, Shannon Wise, Rosa Huerta, Ashley Rice

**REGRETS:** Butch Dies, Mark Kalchik, Laura Kalchik (resigned), Gary Cardaronella (resigned), Victor Sotelo

**ABSENT:** Lyn Peters, Jim Poptanich

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sandra McCormick, Shannon Morrison, Ariella Mason, Susan Renfro, Sally Gomez, Peggy Dunklee

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

- Meeting called to order at 7:00 by acting President Kristie Leyba.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 24, 2023 MEETING AND NOVEMBER 28, 2023 MEETING**

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

**3. LIBRARY STAFF REPORT—ARIELLA MASON**

- The Heritage Center is looking to update the *Century of Service* books by creating a *Century of Progress* follow-up, written by retired librarian Bill Secrest, as well as a hardcover children's book about the Library illustrated by retired library staff member Nan Carlsen. Additionally, the Library is working on completing some Fresno County Schools books.
- Dan Dunklee knows of a way to print on-demand, so cost and storage for the books won't be an issue. The main financial ask is for the illustrations for the children's book. Dan will cover typesetting, editing, and layout and already owns some ISBN numbers, so they won't be a cost issue. The copyright for the books will be about \$75 per title. He estimates that the total cost for all of the books will be less than \$5000.
- Because of Dan's health concerns, Bill Secrest has agreed to take over the project if Dan can't complete it.
- The idea is to create a Fresno County Public Library/Heritage Center/Friends of the Library joint imprint for publishing.
- **Motion:** To approve up to \$10,000 for the production of the *Century of Progress* book, children's hardcover book, and the Fresno County Schools books.
- **Motion by:** Nick Andrade
- **Seconded by:** Nancy Kast

- **Carried**

#### **4. COUNTY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT – SALLY GOMEZ**

- Measure B: The administrative staff will be meeting with County counsel soon to discuss what the Library can and can't do in terms of advocacy work for the measure.
- News coverage: Fresno County Public Library is one of 152 libraries worldwide to have reached over 1 million digital checkouts in 2023.
- There is no update on the ValleyCat app yet.
- Reedley: The project is still in the bid process and down to three bidders, but budget constraints are proving to be an issue.
- Clovis: The land swap has been approved and will now go to the Board of Supervisors in early March. After that, the design-build process can begin.
- Selma: The remodel will begin in Q1 of this year, during which the branch will likely close and be temporarily replaced by a Bookmobile.
- Politi: The leasing process on the new building is ongoing.
- Central: More information is soon to come about the infrastructure grant. Upcoming assessments will determine whether or how long the branch will need to close to complete the upgrades.
- Prom Event: The pop-up shop will take place on February 3 with the goal of serving 300 teens. There will also be pop-ups in Auberry and Mendota. Over 1000 dresses, 100 suits, and 100 individual shirts, jackets, and pants have been donated.

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

- Donation documentation of “consumables” has been an issue internally at the Library. There have also been concerns about staff using their own money to pay for supplies and being reimbursed by the Friends. The Library would like to try out using Amazon gift cards to try to mitigate the issue. This conversation will continue at a later date.

#### **6. LIBRARY STAFF REPORT – SHANNON MORRISON**

- The Walk to Mordor program is in its fourth year with an adjusted goal of 500 miles over the course of two months.
- Participants can track their activity in Beanstack and gain buttons there, as well as physical buttons. There are reading challenges for each age group, also in Beanstack, and the movie licenses that the Friends provide will be used to show all of the *Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* movies throughout the program at different branches across the county.
- All participants are eligible to win prizes from the Fresno Grizzlies, including three game tickets and some merchandise for each participant.

#### **7. BOARD REPORTS**

- **ACTING PRESIDENT KRISTIE LEYBA**

##### **i. Meeting Schedule for 2024**

1. Shannon Wise suggested a schedule of two in-person meetings per quarter and one Zoom in order to discourage uncivil behavior.

Becky Brown agreed that seeing people face-to-face more often might encourage better decorum.

2. For future meetings, in order to maintain a quorum, we will ask if anyone has to leave early so that any business items can be moved up in the agenda.
3. Rosa Huerta suggested occasionally changing locations so that meetings are more accessible to outlying branches. Shannon Wise agreed to drive people if driving at night is a concern, and it was mentioned that people over age 70 are eligible for taxi scrip, which could be helpful.
4. Meetings will now be held on the fourth Monday of each month (with occasional exceptions) and the 2024 schedule will be as follows:
  - a. Monday 2/26 on Zoom
  - b. Saturday 3/23 at Woodward (Annual Meeting)
  - c. Monday 4/22 at Fig Garden
  - d. Monday 5/20 potentially at Politi
  - e. Monday 6/24 on Zoom
  - f. Monday 7/22 on Zoom
  - g. Monday 8/26 at Fig Garden
  - h. Monday 9/23 in-person (location TBA)
  - i. Monday 10/28 at Fig Garden
  - j. Monday 11/25 on Zoom

- **VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP AND NOMINATING – BECKY BROWN**

- i. We will push the conversation about nominations to February's meeting.
- ii. There are three potential new members to present for the Annual Meeting.

- **TREASURER—NICK ANDRADE**

- i. Central Valley Community Fund investments and Noble Credit Union dues are updated through October. We are ahead of budget even though these are behind.
- ii. We are under budget on expenses.

- **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- i. Tabled.

## 8. BOOKSHOP UPDATE

- Tabled.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

- Bylaws are being updated with the help of our nonprofit lawyer, Laura Ward.
- **NEXT MEETING: Monday, February 26 at 7 PM via Zoom.**

Submitted by Sam Retton, Executive Assistant.