

Friends of the Fresno County Public Library
Board Meeting Minutes
July 28, 2025
Zoom

MINUTES

PRESENT: Nancy Kast, Becky Brown, Shannon Wise, Rosa Huerta, Mark Kalchik, Jim Poptanich, Sandra Knudson, Brooke Payton

REGRETS: Nick Andrade, Butch Dies, Brian Baker, Deborah Janzen

ABSENT: Vicki Love, Amanda Stinnett

ALSO PRESENT: Terry Eckman, Susan Renfro, Kim Sturges

1. CALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS

- The meeting was called to order at 7:04 by President Shannon Wise.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REGRETS AND EXCUSED ABSENCES

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM JUNE 23, 2025 MEETING

- **Motion:** Jim Poptanich
- **Seconded by:** Brooke Payton
- **Carried**

4. COUNTY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT – SALLY GOMEZ

- The Library is in the midst of Library Assistant recruitment and has just finished interviews. They're also in the scheduling phase for interviews for the open Graphic Artist position.
- A new Executive Assistant has been hired to replace Karen Coletti. Her name is Vera Scott-Slater and she's a transfer from the Ag Department and has over 16 years of experience.
- Regarding a question from the June meeting about the grand jury report:
 - The report mentioned openings on the Measure B Citizens Review Panel and the fact that there were open positions. The Library is not in charge of filling these, so this is more of an issue for the Board of Supervisors to address.
 - After the report, the Library communicated to the grand jury that they needed to get a strategic plan in place before making some of the changes asked of them.
 - Jim Poptanich explained to the grand jury, as a member of the Citizens Review Panel, that the Board of Supervisors makes decisions about the panel, not the Library or the panel itself. District 2 panelists have not been appointed. The Panel meets again on August 6.
- Shannon Wise asked if a decision has been made on when to put Measure B on the ballot. Sally confirmed that no decision has been made yet, but the Library will be speaking with consultants, including FM3 (who worked on the last campaign). Sally will be in touch with Shannon to discuss next steps.

5. DEPUTY COUNTY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT – TERRY ECKMAN

- Capital Projects and Harris Construction think they have settled on dates for groundbreaking for Reedley and Clovis, but these have not been confirmed yet.
- Selma: The County architect thinks the project can be wrapped up in six weeks, but there have been some fire sprinkler issues, so it may be closer to eight. As of now, the anticipated reopening window is towards the end of September. There have also been some flooring issues to work out.
- Central: Testing is done and a cost proposal is being finalized for the basement portion of the project, which will include asbestos abatement so the lighting can be replaced. The project will be open to bidders soon.
- Clovis and Reedley: Documents are completed and construction is expected to begin on October 8. Darden will be doing the interiors.
- The Politi Friends got a sneak peek at the new building as it is right now. Permits are being pulled, an electrical plan is done, and a Demco floorplan and furniture plan will be finalized soon. Mark Kalchik confirmed that it was exciting to see how much bigger it is than the current branch.
- Brooke Payton asked about Highway City. Terry confirmed that the project is on the back burner until other projects are further along. Brooke also asked if a replacement for Chris Jones had been hired at the County, but that position has not yet been filled.

6. LIBRARY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REPORT – SUSAN RENFRO

- KSEE 24 will be doing a live spotlight on Thursday about the Reptile Ron program from roughly 5-7 AM.
- Brooke Payton asked where things stand regarding booking the author of *Finding Gobi*. Susan will double check on whether anything has been signed yet, but the time has been secured. Promotion will begin around mid-September and will include “Brought to you by Measure B” verbiage.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- Potential board members:
 - Virginia Harmon: Not present; works as an accountant and is willing to fill in as Treasurer, if necessary.
 - Kim Sturges: Present; worked as an actuary and is now retired and loves to volunteer.
- Switching from Quickbooks Desktop to Quickbooks Online
 - Seasha Neal, the accountant who handles Friends of the Library's books, presented on the issues she and her team are facing regarding buying expensive Desktop licenses, which is causing delays; additionally, the version of Quickbooks they currently use is no longer eligible for support.
 - Jim Poptanich asked about the cost difference between the two. Seasha noted that we pay \$20 a month for Qbox, plus \$99 a month for Quickbooks. If we switch to Online, the cost will be \$19.99 a month for

the first three months, plus a transfer fee of \$300-500, whereas each new Desktop subscription is \$1000-1500 per year.

- **Motion by:** Mark Kalchik
- **Seconded by:** Jim Poptanich
- **The quorum was lost by this point in the evening, so the motion failed. An email vote will be sent, to be ratified at the next meeting.**

8. BOARD REPORTS

• PRESIDENT – SHANNON WISE

- Shannon and Nancy Kast went to Wells Fargo to get Shannon added to the bank account as an authorized signer; however, Nancy and Jim Poptanich are the only current board members who are on the account as key executives, so this will need to be updated. They also asked about deposit-only cards for the branches, which would make deposits easier to make and track, but we are waiting to hear back on how many cards we would be allowed to have.
- Shannon recently spoke to Nick Andrade, who is still very interested in being involved and has been bored during his recovery. He's willing to begin doing some Friends of the Library work again and looks forward to returning to meetings as soon as he can.
- There are book sales coming up at Betty Rodriguez, Gillis, and Central.
- The Policies and Procedures Committee has not met yet. All members should send Shannon their availability.

• VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAMS – ROSA HUERTA

- No report, but Rosa asked Shannon if she had been in contact with the Fresno Fairgrounds about a sale. Shannon asked if people would prefer a big sale or a passport crawl, like Indie Bookstore Day. Mark Kalchik mentioned that he enjoyed the camaraderie of a Big Book Sale, so Becky Brown suggested a social instead of a sale in order to promote that kind of atmosphere. It was noted that some branches don't have enough space for sales, which complicates the idea of a passport crawl, although it might bring foot traffic to their branches.

• VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP – BECKY BROWN

- Becky and Sam Retton will meet with QuiqLabs about the site the Patino students built for us as part of their project.
- We are still looking to hold a membership drive in October, along with National Friends of Libraries Week.

• ACCOUNTANT – SEASHA NEAL

- Seasha began her presentation with a bit of trivia about the branches with the most dues (Woodward, Reedley, Politi, and Clovis), the most used book sales (Fig Garden, Woodward, Clovis, and Sunnyside), and the top spenders (Sunnyside and Fowler).
- There has been a total cash increase, including a \$25,000 donation to Politi.

- The biggest expense so far this year has been for Summer At Your Library.
- Looking at Central Valley Community Foundation investments, there was huge growth in Q1 and Q2 in 2024; so far, in 2025, that growth has been smaller.
- The Friends currently have \$84,000 in revenue for the year with a net loss of around \$9,000 and net income of \$230,000. There is no approved budget for 2025 yet.
- Brooke Payton asked if there had been any money set aside to ask Laura Ward about her letter of support for the Tower District Library. Shannon Wise has been in touch with Laura but will follow up. Nothing has been billed yet.

9. OLD BUSINESS

- Bookshop update
 - The shop is 50% off for the entire month of July because so many donations have come in.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mark Kalchik mentioned an article on Dan Dunklee in the Clovis Roundup on July 17.

- **NEXT MEETING: Monday, August 25 at 7 PM at Fig Garden.**

11. ADJOURNMENT

- **Given that there was no quorum by the end of the meeting, there was no adjournment. The meeting ended at 8:29.**

Submitted by Sam Retton, Executive Assistant.