

Friends of the Fresno County Public Library
Board Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2025
Zoom

MINUTES

PRESENT: Nancy Kast, Becky Brown, Shannon Wise, Mark Kalchik, Jim Poptanich, Vicki Love, Brian Baker, Sandra Knudson, Deborah Janzen, Amanda Stinnett

REGRETS: Nick Andrade, Rosa Huerta, Brooke Payton

ABSENT: Butch Dies

ALSO PRESENT: Terry Eckman, Susan Renfro

1. CALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS

- The meeting was called to order at 7:03 by President Shannon Wise.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REGRETS AND EXCUSED ABSENCES

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM MAY 19, 2025 MEETING

- **Motion:** Brian Baker
- **Seconded by:** Sandra Knudson
- **Carried**

4. DEPUTY COUNTY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT – TERRY ECKMAN

- Clovis and Reedley are making good progress, although there is no word yet on when groundbreaking will occur.
- Selma is making good progress. There is now a weekly pop-up where the community can access resources and pick up books. The branch does not have wifi yet.
- Politi has a proposed floorplan with Demco, but it's contingent upon what happens with the electrical work.
- Central's infrastructure upgrade is still in the testing phase but needs to be done by March 2027, although there may be a need to ask the state for an extension on the grant. Most vendors are not used to work this extensive (or working on a retired bomb shelter), and the basement is a particular challenge.
- The naming rights bidding process for Reedley and Clovis has been cancelled by the Board of Supervisors.
- Mark Berner retired last week and Jessica Duong is the new Raisin Vines cluster supervisor.
- The San Joaquin Valley Library System Librarian III position was just filled for the first time in a long time, and a new Library Maintenance Supervisor has been hired to fill Gabe Mata's old role.
- Karen Coletti, who has been the Administrative Assistant to the County Librarian for some time, is retiring on Wednesday.

5. LIBRARY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REPORT – SUSAN RENFRO

- Summer At Your Library started last week and the press release just went out today.
- There was some great press coverage about the recent Career Online High School program graduate.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- Branch Gathering:
 - Each branch in attendance reported on what they've been up to or have planned.
 - We discussed Measure B and a potential Big Book Sale and stressed the need for volunteers, especially ones who can sort books.

7. BOARD REPORTS

- **PRESIDENT – SHANNON WISE**
 - There has been lots of interest in the Measure B committee already.
 - Shannon has emailed our attorney, Laura Ward, to try and schedule an appointment to discuss Measure B and what we can and can't do in the lead-up to the election.
 - Shannon has a friend who is interested in joining the board and may be willing to serve as our interim Treasurer.
 - Shannon will work on getting a Policies and Forms Committee meeting scheduled.
- **VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAMS – ROSA HUERTA**
 - No report.
- **VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP – BECKY BROWN**
 - Becky met with Sam Retton and Susan Renfro about the Selma reopening. Susan will connect with Jessica Duong about any plans she might have for it before we begin planning anything.
 - Becky and Shannon Wise met with Blake Zante from the Maddy Institute to discuss Measure B. He will provide us with a list of potential people to talk to or work with.
 - We would like to do a membership drive in the fall and are working to iron out our DonorPerfect issues. Nancy Kast wants to schedule a Zoom call with Seasha Neal (our accountant), Becky, Shannon, Sam, and our next interim Treasurer to discuss this.
 - The Library would like to work with a firm that can do some market research, if they can, to handle the informational piece of Measure B, but there's no clarity yet on when Measure B will be on the ballot.
 - Nancy Kast asked about the grand jury report that recently came out on the Library. Terry Eckman said he'd look into it and see where things stand regarding the Library's response. Jim Poptanich mentioned that the grand jury thought that the Measure B Citizen's Review Panel directed the Library, not the Board of Trustees.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- The Policies and Forms Committee will get an email this week.
- Bookshop update:
 - Lots of donations have been coming in and the volunteers have been boxing up books to send to the branches.
 - Amanda Stinnett has been coming in on Tuesdays to help shelve books.
- Nancy Kast mentioned Dan Dunklee's memorial and reception and said she's spoken to Nick Andrade's wife and he's making good progress in his recovery.
- Shannon Wise asked for input on whether people would be willing to go to a Big Book Sale post-COVID and asked members to ask around and see if there is interest from the public. Jim Poptanich mentioned that this is mainly an issue of how to support the smaller branches, since they tend to have to rely heavily on these sales for income. Shannon floated the idea of something like the Indie Bookstore Day passport for a sale weekend in place of one big book sale, which might encourage people to visit as many branches in the county as possible.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None.

- **NEXT MEETING: Monday, July 28 at 7 PM via Zoom.**

10. ADJOURNMENT

- **Motion by:** Jim Poptanich
- **Seconded by:** Brian Baker
- **Carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.**

Submitted by Sam Retton, Executive Assistant.