

Friends of the Fresno County Public Library
Board Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2025
Fig Garden Library

MINUTES

PRESENT: Nancy Kast, Becky Brown, Nick Andrade, Shannon Wise, Rosa Huerta, Butch Dies, Vicki Love, Brian Baker, Sandra Knudson

REGRETS: Dan Dunklee, Mark Kalchik, Jim Poptanich, Deborah Janzen

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

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 APRIL 28, 2025 MEETING

- Sam Retton asked for the spelling of Amanda Stinnett's last name in order to correct the minutes. Brooke Payton noted that regarding the budget, she had asked about whether anything had been budgeted to ask the lawyer about a letter of support for the Tower District Library project.
- **Motion to approve as amended by:** Nancy Kast
- **Seconded by:** Vicki Love
- **Carried**

4. COUNTY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT – SALLY GOMEZ

- Not much to report at the moment.

5. DEPUTY COUNTY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT – TERRY ECKMAN

- Sanger reopened today, but there are already some minor AC issues to work out. New doors may not be installed for another week or two, but this won't cause service disruptions.
- Two weeks ago, the Board of Supervisors approved a deal (\$15 million over five years) for the Library's new contract with Demco, which will allow the Library to buy from them directly; this will make purchasing both cheaper and faster.
 - There are already lots of great ideas for Politi after a visit from Demco.
- There's no significant news on the Central infrastructure grant yet. One vendor has been chosen, but the project is still in the design testing phase.
- Selma is looking like it will open closer to August. Nancy Kast brought up the fact that the lack of alternative services during the closure is potentially dangerous in the lead-up to Measure B, and Sally Gomez noted that there are some statistics being collected about where Selma patrons are going instead and whether they're still accessing materials, so usership statistics aren't taking a complete hit.
 - The Bookmobile has been hard to staff, which is why it hasn't been a viable option for Selma this time around. The state of California now

requires that drivers of that class of vehicle attend trucking school, and the pay just isn't especially competitive for drivers who've already done so. The Library currently has one qualified driver, but they already have another job, so it's difficult to schedule them. Future Bookmobiles in the fleet will ideally be smaller and only require a Class B license in order to combat this issue.

- Shannon Wise asked if there might be an option for delivery, possibly even by partnering with Doordash or Uber. Amanda Stinnett asked if it might even be possible for volunteers to do deliveries, but Sally Gomez said that this would almost definitely be an issue for Risk Management.
- A limited pop-up library might be possible if appropriate space can be found, but staffing has been a real issue across the Library system and the hiring process isn't complete yet. The Library is in the process of consolidating some part-time positions into full-time ones in order to better fill vacancies.
- Brooke Payton asked if there was an FOL group at Selma, but there never has been, so she suggested that FOL Main organize a big sale, readings, and some other activities at a local school, park, or community center.
 - Shannon Wise suggested that FOL fund a reopening party for the branch and asked that all board members bring suggestions to be voted on. Nick Andrade suggested a committee to take on the planning, and Becky Brown, Rosa Huerta, Brooke Payton, and Brian Baker volunteered. Shannon Wise is a de facto member.
- With regards to hiring, over 700 people applied for the open part-time positions, but only roughly twenty are open. Over 60 people applied for the open graphic artist position. Karen Coletti, the Administrative Assistant for the County Librarian, is retiring, but the Library can't post her position until it's vacant.

6. LIBRARY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REPORT – SUSAN RENFRO

- The Annual Poetry Contest received 209 submissions in 2024, and in 2025, there were 299, with the biggest jump happening in the Grade 9-12 category. The Awards Ceremony will take place on June 8 at 2:00 at Woodward.
- Summer At Your Library begins on June 16 and runs through August 3. Susan presented the Board with this year's calendars and reading logs, as well as the tote bags for winners and the pins people can receive for completing the reading challenge.
- Fresno County Reads will be returning in the fall. This year's book selection is *Finding Gobi* by Dion Leonard and Craig Borlase. This book was chosen in part because it's a bit lighter than some of the previous reads, in terms of subject matter, but also because it's available in Spanish and has read-alikes for different age groups.
 - The program will run from October 1 to November 30.

- The author will be available and in Fresno in mid-October and can bring Gobi along to a talk. The cost for up to three events (two for kids and one for adults) would be \$1200. This might be a good opportunity for community partnerships with groups like Fresno Humane, Clovis Veteran's Hall, Fresno City College, Post 509, Warnor's Theater, or Valdez Hall.
- Nancy Kast made a **motion** to approve up to \$1500 to book the author for programs in October.
 - **Seconded by:** Brian Baker.
 - **Carried.**

7. NEW BUSINESS

- Election of new board members:
 - Brooke Payton: Brooke has been the Tower District Library Advocate for two years. She is the former President of Central FOL and has worked in school and college libraries.
 - Amanda Stinnett: Amanda is an MLIS student in the online program at University of Denver. She is not currently an FOL member, but will become one ASAP.
 - Brian Baker made a **motion** to accept both Brooke and Amanda as board members, incumbent upon Amanda becoming a member.
 - **Seconded by:** Nancy Kast.
 - **Carried.**

8. BOARD REPORTS

- **PRESIDENT – SHANNON WISE**
 - Shannon will be reaching out to the attorney about whether the board can sign a letter in support of the Tower District Library, as well as what FOL can and can't do in terms of Measure B, including funding and whether we can meet in library spaces.
 - There will be a Measure B committee formed soon. Shannon would like to send an email to the entire membership to ask for volunteers, including up to fifteen people for the committee.
 - As of this time, there's space on the board for five more members.
- **VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAMS – ROSA HUERTA**
 - Rosa will be meeting with Shannon soon and have a report in the near future.
- **VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP – BECKY BROWN**
 - No report; the Selma Reopening Committee will begin work soon.
- **TREASURER—NICK ANDRADE**
 - No report.
 - There is a new requirement in the state of California that all employers provide employees with the option of a retirement savings program.

Nick will be speaking with someone from Gusto (the company whose payroll software we use) to set this up for Sam Retton.

9. OLD BUSINESS

- The Policies and Forms Committee will meet soon.
- Bookshop update:
 - Indie Bookstore Day brought in about \$1500, which was a massive amount compared to an average Saturday.
 - Last Tuesday, a woman donated 11 boxes of books, so lots of donations are coming in.
 - With regards to a Big Book Sale, we would need younger volunteers and people with general book knowledge to help sort books from a book drive. Sam Retton will work on sending an email to the membership to look for volunteers for the Bookshop.
 - Brooke Payton suggested reaching out to the local high schools. Vicki Love suggested trying to get volunteer opportunities into teachers' syllabi for next year. She also has connections with librarians at Edison and Fresno High School.
 - Amanda Stinnett, Shannon Wise, and Brian Baker expressed interest in doing some volunteer time at the Bookshop soon.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Nick Andrade gave a shout out to Brian Baker's spotlight in EECU's recent email newsletter.
- **NEXT MEETING: Monday, June 23 at 7 PM via Zoom.**

11. ADJOURNMENT

- **Motion by:** Brian Baker
- **Seconded by:** Nancy Kast
- **Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.**

Submitted by Sam Retton, Executive Assistant.