

**Friends of the Fresno County Public Library**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**November 28, 2023**  
Fig Garden Library

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Chris Estep, Nancy Kast, Nick Andrade, Dan Dunklee, Shannon Wise, Kristie Leyba, Butch Dies, Ashley Rice

**REGRETS:** Mark Kalchik, Laura Kalchik, Becky Brown, Victor Sotelo

**ABSENT:** Gary Cardaronella, Lyn Peters, Jim Poptanich, Rosa Huerta

**ALSO PRESENT:** Brooke Payton, Peggy Dunklee, Linda Garcia

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

- There was no quorum at this meeting, so the business meeting was never called to order.

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

- Because there was no quorum, the minutes have not yet been approved.

**3. LIBRARY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REPORT—SUSAN RENFRO**

- Reedley: The new library project is in the design and build process and is down to three potential companies. No word yet on when a decision will be made.
- Clovis: The property swap has been pushed back because the City wants ownership of the property the library is currently in when the library leaves, and if anything “not library related” takes place in that space, it will need to be approved by the Clovis City Council.
- Selma: The building is scheduled to be remodeled next year and will get a new roof, new lighting, new siding, and new windows.
- Central: The infrastructure grant has been approved and will cover a new roof, new lighting, and new windows. There is currently no start date for the project.
- The Holocaust exhibit has garnered lots of great feedback so far. Some field trips are expected to take place. The next program related to the exhibit will be survivor stories on December 3.
- Now that the Parents Matter Act has been approved, there are questions internally and externally. How is “minor” being defined in this context? (For instance, does it mean 13, which is the age to get a library card without parental consent, or 18, or even 21?) The Library is currently waiting for further information and direction.
- Politi: Thanks to the work of the Friends of the Library, the conversation about the 99 Cents Only building is back on. The County leasing office is looking into the lease.

**4. BOARD REPORTS**

- **PRESIDENT CHRIS ESTEP**
  - i. **Parents Matter Act**

1. A coalition has been formed that includes members of groups like Reforma Del Valle Central, LGBT Fresno, PFLAG, the American Library Association, and the American Civil Liberties Union, as well as other community members and grassroots organizations.
2. The ACLU can't act until a book has been moved, but they are gearing up to sue as soon as this happens.
3. In Huntington Beach, where a similar resolution was passed, the city manager has resigned.
4. We have to think carefully about Measure B when we do any future marketing. More letters to the editor will likely come in handy, as well as possibly t-shirts to thank people for writing letters.
  - a. Kristie Leyba suggested an advocacy subcommittee or outreach and advocacy committee.
  - b. This is an opportunity to use the energy generated by this resolution and campaign to garner more support for the Library and for Friends of the Library. Suggestions included encouraging more staff members to join the Friends, creating a visual representation of the 700+ book challenges PFLAG received on the form they created, and convincing one of the Supervisors to rescind the resolution.
  - c. Shannon Wise will look into Measure B's verbiage to ensure that no funds can be used for lawsuits.

**ii. Brews and Vines Committee**

1. The 2024 event will take place Thursday, May 9.
2. If the event is going to happen this year, we are in need of volunteers to help plan it.

**iii. Branch Board Get-Together**

1. The event was well-attended (28 people, including the Main Board).
2. Topics for future meetings include recruitment and retention and Measure B. Regarding recruitment and retention, Nancy Kast asked for some examples of organizations with diverse boards who might be able to offer advice.
3. Weekends seem to work well for these meetings, and we'd like to schedule them quarterly, perhaps at the January Board meeting.
4. Dan Dunklee emphasized the importance of having staff in attendance, and Nick Andrade suggested holding a meeting or event for Library staff to help clarify our policies and procedures for them.
5. Kristie Leyba suggested holding a Main Board meeting before a branch board meeting.

• **TREASURER—NICK ANDRADE**

- i. Our investments through the Central Valley Community Foundation have been updated through September, as well as the Noble Credit Union dues.
- ii. The tax return is finished and filed.
- iii. DonorPerfect is still in the works. We are currently checking the deletion filters.
- iv. We may need to change how we report credit union memberships, as this affects our direct public support. We failed our public support test this year, but it's likely that we should have been reporting differently.

- **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- i. **Compliance Committee:** Scheduled to meet in January. The attorney, Laura Ward, is working on the bylaws.
- ii. **Job Descriptions for Branch Officers Taskforce:** No report.

**5. BOOKSHOP UPDATE**

- Everything in the shop is 50% off for the entirety of December.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

- For consideration: Nick Andrade will no longer be able to meet on fourth Tuesdays, so we may need to either change our meeting days or times or transition someone else in as Treasurer.
- For consideration: If we do bring Zoom back as a meeting option, there will need to be ground rules in place.
- The Library has acquired the former Baskin Robbins near Betty Rodriguez to be used as office space for Literacy.
- Chris Estep is leaving Fresno County and stepping down as President of the Friends of the Library.
- **NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 23 at 7:00 PM—Fig Garden Library**

**Submitted by Sam Retton, Executive Assistant.**