

**Friends of the Fresno County Public Library**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 22, 2025**  
Fig Garden

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Nancy Kast, Nick Andrade, Shannon Wise, Rosa Huerta, Mark Kalchik, Jim Poptanich, Brian Baker, Sandra Knudson, Deborah Janzen, Brooke Payton, Amanda Stinnett, Kim Sturges

**REGRETS:** Becky Brown, Butch Dies, Vicki Love

**ALSO PRESENT:** Terry Eckman, Sally Gomez, Susan Renfro

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

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by President Shannon Wise.

**2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REGRETS AND EXCUSED ABSENCES**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM JULY 28, 2025 MEETING**

- **Motion:** Nancy Kast moved to approve the minutes with the amendment that Mark Kalchik be removed from the “Present” list.
- **Seconded by:** Jim Poptanich
- **Carried**

**4. COUNTY LIBRARIAN’S REPORT – SALLY GOMEZ**

- Everyone is settling in after the groundbreaking ceremonies.
- Three or four of the recent hires have already quit, which is something that is usually to be expected, but another round of hiring will take place soon to bring the numbers back to where we’d like them.
- New Board of Supervisors policies (Administrative Policy 80 and 81):
  - The Library just went to the Board to ask for approval to buy candy to hand out at Zoo Boo, which they had already committed to having a table at.
  - As per AP 80, all holiday or celebration-related requests now have to go on a form, which has to be submitted to County Counsel, and then has to be submitted as a board agenda item before any funds can be spent.
  - As per AP 81, all holidays, themes, and celebrations outside of County holidays must be approved by the Board. The Library is working with the analyst to work through the process of getting everything approved for next year. Approvals are valid for five years.

**5. DEPUTY COUNTY LIBRARIAN’S REPORT – TERRY ECKMAN**

- Selma may be done by late October but is currently having fire alarm issues.
- Furniture purchases are being finalized for Politi and work is currently expected to be completed by January 20 of next year, which Terry believes to be an optimistic estimate.

- Talking Book is caught up in a number of logistical snags because it requires the County to work with the City to ask for the desired improvements, such as replacing the flooring, so the library can move back to its old location. Every upgrade or construction project now requires approval from the County CAO, which may add time.
- A new Real Property Program Manager has been hired at Fresno County: Corey Nelson. Corey and Terry will be meeting to discuss plans for Central, including a space for relocation. Roughly 120 staff members work out of Central, which also serves as the shipping and receiving hub, the server space, et cetera, so this is a huge undertaking.

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

- Library Card Sign-Up Month: With one week to go, there have been 2,379 new sign-ups. The goal is 3,000.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

- Branch Gathering recap by Nancy Kast
  - A little over 20 members attended the meeting.
  - When it came to new fundraising ideas, not many were offered, but the group did discuss the Home Show. There are some cons to this idea, including the cost of entry, cost of parking, and the fact that the freight doors have to be open and weather is hard to predict.
  - There was some interest in more branches taking on Bookshop shifts.
  - The new purchase request form was shared and explained to the group.

## **8. BOARD REPORTS**

### **• PRESIDENT – SHANNON WISE**

- All board members (and members, in general) should share as many Friends of the Library and Library posts as possible on social media in order to improve reach.
- For Banned Books Week, we'd like members to take a photo with a banned book and send it to Sam Retton with a short paragraph about why it's a favorite.
- For Friends of Libraries Week, we'd like members to let us know why they're a Friend by sending a short paragraph (and ideally a photo) to Sam.

### **• VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAMS – ROSA HUERTA**

- Rosa has been looking into potential pop-up book sale locations around Fresno, including the Home Show, Gazebo Gardens, and veteran's halls (especially during Greek Fest).
- Rosa mentioned the Sanger Friends' jazz event on September 29.
- Regarding programs, Brooke Payton mentioned that she's started her crochet classes at Fig Garden and still does classes at Gillis. She's also been training a librarian at Betty Rodriguez to sew on the machine the branch has so they can run more programming in their branch's Innovations Lab.

- **TREASURER – NICK ANDRADE**
  - No report.
  - Documents have been requested for the tax return.

## 9. OLD BUSINESS

- The Policies and Forms Committee (Shannon Wise, Nick Andrade, Rosa Huerta, Kim Sturges, Sandra Knudson, and Vicki Love) has not met yet. Shannon will be in touch via email.
- Bookshop update:
  - There are upcoming sales at Bear Mountain, Sanger, and Sunnyside.
  - Provost and Pritchard volunteered to clean out the warehouse again. Eight people were able to fill several bins for recycling by Neighborhood Industries.

## 10. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Brooke Payton asked if Laura Ward had been contacted yet about whether the Board can write a letter of support for the Tower District Library. Shannon Wise has an appointment with Laura and will ask about it at that time. Brooke also asked about the next meeting of the Measure B Citizen's Review panel.
- Mark Kalchik mentioned that the Coalinga-Huron Library District also has concerns about Measure B and should be looped into the conversation, once campaign planning begins.
  - Sam Retton mentioned that the current mayor of Huron, Rey León, is running for District 4 Supervisor.
- Regarding what the Friends can and can't do for Measure B, there was no political action committee in 2012, but the rules may have changed in that time. Sally Gomez found a thumb drive from 2012 and has shared it with Sam, which may be helpful in planning next steps.

- **NEXT MEETING: Monday, October 27 at 7 PM at Fig Garden.**

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

- **Motion by:** Brian Baker
- **Seconded by:** Mark Kalchik
- **Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:12.**

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