

2015_8_7 Friends of the Round Valley Public Library General Meeting - August

Meeting called to order, 5:04

Josh Bennett
Mary Jane Cummings
Emily Ellickson-Brown
Gus Evans
Joe Gauder
Dean Meyer
Izzy LeMieux
Mary Lou Mileck
Ernie Racette
Maryjane Racette
Madeleine Shepherd
Pat Sobrero
Ed TePas

Minutes for July 2015 meeting were approved.

1. Utility bills (Ed for Lew): With the sunny weather, our solar panels have been more than meeting our electrical needs during these summer months.

2. Blackberry Festival and Footrace update (Dean): This year's footrace will be more of a Fun Run. Instead of set registration fees, we'll be accepting donations for the library. There will be a clock for those who want to keep track of their times.

Change: The race will be at 8 am on Saturday morning, before the Blackberry Festival starts.

After many years organizing, Dean will be retiring as the race director. If you'd like the opportunity to contribute to the Library/Library Commons, this is a great way to do so in a fun, yet productive way. Step up now and get some on-the-job hands-on training from Dean the morning of the event.

Volunteers are needed for:

- (1) a BBF grounds cleanup day Sunday August 9 from 10 to 12.
- (2) Picnic tables and bleachers will be moved Thursday, August 20 at 4pm.
- (3) Setting up tent will happen Friday August 21 at 4pm.

3. Coffee Shop report: Madeline reports that business is steady. In addition to their regular visitors, they enjoy meeting new folks every week. The new dishwashing machine has been installed and is up and running.

The Coffee Shop will be serving breakfast the Saturday of the Blackberry Festival. Additionally, they plan to offer yummys *during* the Festival, sending over vendors with hawkers trays (like you see at baseball games).

The Coffee Shop would like to see more refrigeration space in our community kitchen and will bring information as to sizing/costs to the building committee. Now that the food bank has moved, there is space for a new fridge.

4. Radio report: KYBU will be holding a DJ Dance Party on the patio Saturday evening August 22 after the Festival and Square Dancing. They've scheduled 8 of KYBU's DJs to play half-hour sets from approximately 8 p.m. until midnight. Admission is free. They have a license to sell beer and wine.

They also plan a Carnival in the walnut grove, similar to last year's, on Sunday, September 13th. There will be carnival-type games, hotdogs, and a chance to join or renew your membership to KYBU.

The station is happy to announce they will be airing some locally-produced Native programming. Two shows from KPFZ Community Radio in Lake County will soon be hitting our airwaves: James BlueWolf's *Wolf Tracks Indigina* will play Wednesdays at 4 P.M., and *Wolf Tracks Americana* will play Saturdays at 11.

5. Librarian's report (Josh):

Fridays continue to be a popular day for families to visit the Library. In July we had well attended storytimes—the most popular of which had a “bubbles” theme that had children filling the walnut orchard with bubbles of all sizes.

In addition to storytime, there were two events that brought young people to the Library in July:

On July 16th, fire fighters and emergency personnel from three different agencies were at the library for our event celebrating local heroes. Kids and their families were able to meet representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, Calfire and the Covelo Volunteer Fire Department. They learned about firefighting equipment, including suits, tools, engines, and hoses. Participants were even allowed to spray the firefighting hose with firefighters from the Mendocino Nation Forest Covelo Ranger District.

On July 30th, in the community room, we had a group of 10 kids who made origami together. Healthy snacks were provided by The Good Life Catering. The Local Heroes event and the Origami event were part of the Library's Summer Reading Program.

The Library's second summer matinee in July was a popular one: “Back to the Future” played to a delighted, air-conditioned crowd on the 18th. Our final summer matinee will be “How to Train Your Dragon” on August 8th.

Those with a keen eye may notice more new books on display in the library. This month we saw some of the first boxes of new books of the new fiscal year. In July Pat and Josh focused on ordering new adult fiction, young adult fiction and adult non-fiction. Dee helped with the book buying by researching new titles for our "First Americans" section. These titles will begin arriving sometime in August.

The Library will have a presence at the Blackberry Festival this year. Josh will table on Saturday. At the meeting there was discussion about the Friends perhaps tabling Sunday.

Josh also submitted a Security Camera Policy draft to the group to look at. The Friends have installed several cameras around the building and it is important to balance individual privacy with the security of the Library, the Commons, the Coffee Shop, and the people using them. The policy draft requires signage, specifies under which circumstances and by whom footage would be reviewed, and prohibits sharing footage via social media. The document will next be reviewed by the Building Committee.

6. Fundraising report (Ed for Larry): To date in 2015 we have received \$4280 in memberships/donations. The 5th Anniversary celebration in March netted approximately \$3000, so the total fundraising for 2015 so far is \$7280. For comparison purposes, the total amount for all of 2014 was approximately \$16,400.

Fundraising activities for the remainder of this year include the BBF Race/Walk, the annual mailed fundraising appeal to all previous donors, and possibly another dance in the fall – Saturday, Oct 17 would be a good date. I am also hoping to make an effort to revitalize the fundraising committee, calling a meeting and inviting a number of new people in an effort to bring more energy to our fundraising efforts.

7. Landscape update (Genevieve's e-mail to group):
"I will once again be out of town of this meeting time.

"I am compiling a visual list of the furnishing elements that we would like to have purchased. The list seems to be about \$10,000 for physical furnishings of benches, bike rack, trash can, 2 light posts, and 6-8 bollards (aka ground posts). The website for the company that seems to have everything we need is Belson.com. I would also like to propose that we display the Landscape Design + a large color format of all the landscape furnishings that we would like to purchase, in a display to be posted at the Blackberry Festival - we could take specific donations or the Friends could just a lot it however you decide. But it will be a really nice time to display what is to come, to write out all the things we want donated - a dumbstruck of Soil, trees, perennial plants etc.

"In going to the Farmers Market and Cafe recently I became sharply aware of the need to have a grounds keeper for the Walnut Grove, Patio, Gardens, and general sidewalk clean-up surrounding the building. I would like to propose to the Friends -

that we create a position, with a title of Groundskeeper and duties to be performed. I did some thinking and a little bit of research, and believe that 2 hours/week at \$20/hour would be a sufficient amount of time. I also have a list of tasks and would be willing to submit a rough draft (neatly written but up for editing) of the position Tasks.

“I am going to be speaking with a local insurance agent about the Farmers Market receiving event insurance for the Farmers Market Days. I believe that the farmers market is a community event that supports the health and well being of this small community, so let’s do everything that we can to support this service event.”

Comments regarding Landscaping, via e-mail in advance of meeting:

(First comment) “The landscape plan as presented a few months ago is a laudable first step, and I am encouraged to know that an equipment list has been made. We can likely get a cost sharing grant for a portion of the purchases, but as with the solar panels, we will have to buy all the stuff and then get reimbursed. We should probably pursue the grant funding before buying \$10,000 of landscape equipment to make sure that we are following appropriate protocol for the grant, but I also think that even without a grant to share the cost if we can raise the money specifically for this project we should proceed. But, again, we should pursue the grant possibilities before spending the money.

“Also, I don't think the plan as presented is completely OK. I have concerns that there is not a realistic provision for vehicle access needs, either for the kitchen, for trash, for Roy's operation, or the propane truck. I think we need to allow for some parking/access where people park presently, just more constrained or defined. I am not in favor of preventing completely any parking in this area, and access for deliveries and trash removal is a need which will not go away. Have you ever had to deal with so called "removable" bollards? They are extremely unfriendly, heavy, and a hassle. Maybe there are some good ones out there, but my experience has only been that they don't work. Most of the rest of the plan seems fine to me.”

(Second Comment) “I heartily support the idea of creating a groundskeeper position as Genevieve proposes. Perhaps, the October dance ... could feature a display of our landscaping plans and all money raised at the dance could be devoted to the landscaping project.”

(Third Comment) “I believe that in conjunction with the landscaping, we need a cohesive policy for use of the outside area. The policy for using the building calls for rental fees that cover the maintenance and utilities, with for-profit users paying more than not for profit users, and users carrying liability insurance with the Friends as named insured. We could use these types of guidelines for the park users, as the new landscaping will require more maintenance and some utility use, also.”

Our discussion: We should probably pursue the grant funding before buying landscape equipment. The Friends may table Sunday at the BBF, they could display the plans.

More Farmers Market discussion follows the Kitchen report.

8. Kitchen and building report (Izzy):

The dishwashing machine has been installed and works. We've ordered the special soap needed and it will be up and running. We should increase refrigeration capacity in the kitchen so there is enough space for both the Coffee Shop and rental use of the Community Kitchen.

Shey Davis will be in to put stripping on the bottom of all of the doors in the building. We have a rodent presence in the building and this is one of the several steps we are taking to solve the problem.

The Farmers Market was discussed at the last meeting of the Building Committee. The Market vendors have more impact on the walnut grove than any other users, but the vendors pay no rent nor provide upkeep to the space. As the Market continues to grow, it is getting more difficult to enforce rules.

Our discussion: The Friends' insurers will not insure the Farmers Market. The vendors themselves will need to provide some kind of insurance if the Market is to continue successfully. Various individuals will seek out information about certified Farmers Market groups vs. alternatives, licensing, insurance, etc., and Madeleine will schedule a meeting with the vendors to discuss these pressing issues. The Friends group is not in a position to organize and maintain the Market; that will have to come from the vendors, themselves.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10.

Next meeting in four weeks, at 5:00 P.M. on Friday, September 4th.