



**Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library**  
Board Meeting Minutes, April 19, 2023

**Board members present:** Jerry Bradley, Carol Pearson, Peggy Johnson, Jil Richards, Nani Banks, Julie Gervais, and Barbara Lupei. **Library Administrator:** Guests: one member

Jerry called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.  
The agenda was approved.  
The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

**President's Report:** Jerry deferred his comments until later in the meeting.

**Librarian's Report:** Charissa was unable to attend but sent the following report which was read aloud.

- Created a graphic for Facebook page for the Pizza Factory/Beanster's fundraiser, planning to post monthly.
- The Easter Cards for Seniors project, in partnership with Central Point events center collected 76 cards which were delivered by MAEVE Ridgecrest to residents at High Desert Haven. (MAEVE Ridgecrest collects Easter and Thanksgiving cards for seniors at High Desert Haven and Bella Sera, alternating holidays and locations.)
- In-N-Out Cover to Cover Club reading challenge just ended (runs from early March through mid April for ages 4-12 who get a free hamburger, cheeseburger, or grilled cheese for every 5 books read or listened to, up to 3 per child).
- New DA hired, Angela Davis, who will be commuting from California City. Starting Sat 4/22.
- Ancestry database is available INSIDE the library only, from a public computer or via library wifi.
- Public Information Meeting for SB1383 and garbage collection services on Wed 4/19 from 5-7 pm for unincorporated county residents to get info, provide feedback, and ask questions.
- Meal Prep Breakfast Ideas on Sat 4/29 from 10:30-11:30 am presented by Tera Moorehead of RRH.
- Public Information Meeting for Citizen Input on Wed 5/10 from 5-6 pm. Every 5 years, Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Community Development Division researches and reports on impediments to fair housing choice. Citizen input is needed for feedback on housing, economic development, public safety, human services, infrastructure, and other needs.
- Financial series for adults starts in May and continues into June.
  - Basic Personal Finance (5/6 at 2:30-4 pm)
  - Investing Strategies for Building Wealth (5/13 at 2:30-4 pm)
  - Credit and Debt Management (5/20 at 2:30-4 pm)
  - Retirement Planning and Long Term Financial Security (6/3 at 2:30-4 pm)
  - Real Estate Investing and Home Ownership (6/10 at 2:30-4 pm)
- Afternoon Movies series in partnership with the Cross Cultural Exchange Club features inter-generational movies (The Bucket List, Red, Quartet, Finding Neverland).
- Lunch at the Library will run all summer, Tue-Fri from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm with in person dining only. From 6/1-7/7 with SSUSD and from 7/11-7/28 with delivery from Kern County Superintendent of Schools. The large grant KCL won earlier this year from the CA State Library will provide food warmers and milk coolers along with additional tables for seating.
- Summer Reading Planning continues, trying to get donations for bonus finisher prizes to lower the amount being purchased, trying to get more items put on the Amazon Wish List to decrease the number of purchases being made for reimbursement, and trying to get some sponsorships to go towards paying for the paid performances to lower the amount coming

from the Branch Funds. If you have connections to local groups or business owners that might be interested in donating, please let me know. We have letters we provide and will add logos to our sponsor list. So far, we have Pizza Factory as usual, who is donating a free pizza bread and child's drink to all child and teen finishers, plus United Methodist Church and Schu Fu Martial Arts Dojo #119 have donated prizes which will be used for Lunch at the Library attendance and program attendance.

Fundraiser idea:

Ridgecrest Cinemas offer early morning showings on weekends where the non profit can sell tickets and keep 100% of the monies made from the sale. We do not charge for the showing. If you would like to discuss a specific movie or date, please let us know. For the fundraiser, your organization would handle all the ticket sales. We can provide you with the tickets to sell though. You can do pre-sales, or you can sell them at the door the morning of the event. Either way or both works for us. As far as the movie, there would only be one movie choice and one time it would play for this fundraising option. I believe if FRBL chose to do this as a fundraiser, there could be designated pre-sale times where families could come to the library and purchase tickets from a FRBL member. Other groups have done this (Ridgecrest Montessori Children's House and Murray Middle School) and it has been a Saturday morning showing. I feel like families will support this because the movie tickets are also discounted for this special showing.

**Vice-President, Membership Report:** Carol reported

- 13 new members signed up at the bag sale and 1 new member signed up online.
- She sent 220 emails out about the sales. Eleven came back and a few said the recipient's mailbox was full. About 21% of the members with email addresses on file are not up to date with their dues. Carol will contact them with email reminders.
- Carol estimates that we have between 270 and 300 members.

**Treasurer's Report:** Nani reported

- Nani distributed the March Monthly Financial Report, and the Financial Status as of March 31, 2023. She walked us through both reports.
- She told us that AltaOne is offering 4.58% interest on an 18-month CD and suggested that we invest \$6K of the balance in our AltaOne savings account, which is earning nearly zero interest, in a CD. Jil moved that the board make the investment as stated above. The motion was seconded by Peggy and it passed unanimously.
- Nani reminded the board that one of the CDs in the Edward Jones account will mature at the end of April and the other in June of this year.
- Nani pointed out that as a corporation, we will have to collect sales tax on any items (with our name and/or logo) we sell, such as t-shirts and book bags. To avoid the collection, reporting, and paying of sales tax there was discussion on offering the current inventory of these items as incentives or prizes. Nani moved that people who sign up with a \$50.00 membership or renewal could have their choice of a t-shirt or book bag as supplies last. Julie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

- Book Storage Status: Jil visited the Chamber of Commerce. They were very helpful with allowing her to place the Spring Sale on their calendar and billboard.
- Book Disposition Status:
  - The April Bag Sale brought in \$554.00 in book sales plus \$922.00 in bulk sales. The books in this sale were out for the fifth time and Jerry was able to negotiate a sale for all that were left at the end of the day at \$2.00 per box. This helped to reduce inventory on books that were not likely to sell if displayed again and brought in a nice sum for the sale.

- Online Sales - To additional books (Sci-fi) were sent to PGA Galleries in Berkeley for their May 4th auction. The other book left there is slated for a May 15th auction. Three additional books were taken to Berkeley recently but were not accepted for sale. Two of those books were then purchased by a 3rd party.
- Consignment Sales - S&M on Balsam Street does not take consignments. They may consider buying some of our items.
- Little Free Libraries - Jerry reset the LFL in Upjohn Park but Peggy said the glass in the door is already missing. He will take care of that. Jerry had help from a carpenter friend making a new door for the Inyokern LFL. A steward has been found, it just needs a place. The LFL near Dart was found to be full of food instead of books recently!
- CalNonProfits - Would only give a quote for insurance if we filled out four different full application forms. They wanted a great deal of information including some that we could not provide as such a small organization. Perhaps we could try again next year if we prepare further in advance.
- Combined Federal Campaign - Barbara B. wasn't available to report but Jerry stated this is still important to pursue.
- Julie handed out copies of the flyer she designed that will also work great for Facebook posts. Jil showed us the bookmarks the library is handing out with books they check out. Cathy is putting ads in the Swap Sheet and newspaper and the CofC is putting it on their electronic bulletin board for free. Jil and Julie are working to improve signage around the sale. Sue Parker is helping with the layout of the books for the sale. Judy is working to get the newsletter out before the sale as another reminder to members, at least the ones who receive it by email. More set-up and clean-up people are needed.
- Community Yard Sale - There was discussion about collecting items from members but we decided that the board would have enough stuff to stock more than one space. It was decided to limit the collection to board members only. Jil would like us to drop off our items at the depository on May 6th after the book sale so she can see how much stuff we have. Barbara agreed to co-chair this project.

### **New Business**

- Update to Standing Rules - All board member had looked over the documents. There was discussion of the possibility of needing further updates in the near future, however, it was agreed that any further changes could be gathered and made as needed. Barbara moved that the FRBL Bylaws and Standing Rules updated April 19, 2023, and posted on our website for members to review, should be approved. The motion was seconded by Nani and approved. Jil abstained.
- 501(c)3 Filing Status - Nani reported that the filing for 2022 was completed and the filing for 2023 is still in the works.
- VP for Fundraising? - Discussion followed on adding a board member or changing one of the Member-at-Large positions to VP for Fundraising. The position would focus on finding other sources of income such as grants, yard sales, or movies. There was discussed but no decision was made.
- Jerry announced he will not be able to attend the next meeting. Carol will send out the agenda and chair the meeting.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m. The next Board meeting will be **Wednesday, May17th at 1:00pm** in the Library meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lupei, Secretary