



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
Board Meeting Minutes, January 17, 2024

Board members present: Jerry Bradley, Carol Pearson, Nani Banks, Jil Richards, John Freeman, Jack Davidson. **Library Supervisor:** Charissa Wagner.

Jerry called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.
The agenda was approved without amendment.
The minutes from the previous meeting were approved without amendment

President's Report:

- Jerry welcomed the new board members
- As there is still no volunteer from the membership to be Secretary we may have a Secretary for the Month, i.e., fill it on a rotating basis. We will address the issue at a later date.

Librarian's Report: Charissa reported:

- **Toys for Tots:** Organization sponsored programming in December 2023. Funds DO NOT come from community donations for gifts for children but rather from the foundation. They purchased some programming items and books to build home libraries. They also donated some chess sets.
- **Magazine Renewal:** Order will be submitted for renewal with the additions asked for by Jerry Bradley. WT Cox will be sending a quarterly supplemental bill if needed to cover any price increases, which are being requested by credit card or electronic ACH transfer from a checking account. At the time of paying the supplemental bill, a determination would be made about continuing the subscription at the higher price. Jerry asked if we can overpay and use the overage as credit for the next year. Charissa will inquire with the customer service representative to see if that is an option.
- **Mobile App:** The ValleyCat mobile app is no longer being supported and we are looking for a replacement app. The only thing the app can be used for at this time is to scan an already stored library card to use self checkout. The website (kernlibrary.org) can still be used with the library barcode and PIN to do most of the things that were done on the mobile app.
- **Mobile Health Clinic:** Kern Public Health is sending their mobile health clinic to Ridgecrest once a month, on a Tuesday. It is posted on the library's paper calendar and on Facebook along. They offer routine child and adult immunizations, family planning services including IUD and implants, STD testing/treatment (chlamydia, gonorrhea,

- syphilis, HIV), and TB interviews and QuantiFERON blood draws for TB testing. They DO NOT provide sick visits, injury assessments, chronic disease management (asthma, diabetes, heart disease or high blood pressure), or cancer screenings. Appointments NOT needed but can be made by calling 661-321-3000.
- **Mobile Office Hours for Senator Shannon Grove:** Dominic from her office was coming up once a month on the second Tue of the month but it is uncertain if the program will continue.
- **Infrastructure Grant Updates:** The Southwest branch is currently closed for infrastructure grant improvements until June. The Lamont branch will be next and most of the library branches will be getting some infrastructure grant improvements. Due to pricing changes since the grant was submitted, it is uncertain exactly what will be done at the Ridgecrest branch, but it is scheduled for this fall.
- **Measure K Updates:** The library branches in the unincorporated areas of Kern County are getting some of the Measure K sales tax money to expand hours and enhance library offerings. More branches will be open 5 days a week in 2024.
- **Programming:** The library is looking for volunteers to help with intermediate chess skill teaching and machine sewing. If you have adult programming ideas, feel free to share them. We are also working on a Chinese/Lunar New Year program for February.
- **Stay & Play:** The library got a grant for a program called Stay & Play, which will enhance an existing program called Play & Chat. Play & Chat is a free play time with toddler-friendly toys where kids can build social skills while caregivers can chat or interact with the children. Stay & Play is aimed at the 0-5 year old crowd, with emphasis on a caregiver that is family (not parent), friend, or neighbor though parent caregivers will not be turned away. It provides funds for additional free play items plus snacks for the kids. Stay & Play will also offer a representative from a community resource to cover a variety of topics of interest to attendees and comes with professional development for Charissa which really translates to a lot more meetings.
- **Furniture Update:** Due to donations received from other sources over the past few years into the Branch Donation fund, there will likely be no need to use FRBL funds for furniture.
- **Fundraising Location:** The branch Community Room can be used by FRBL for fundraising purposes at no charge, if that helps with future fundraising plans.

Vice-President, Membership Report: Carol reported:

- Since Christmas she has sent out approximately 140 renewal notices to individuals whose memberships had expired. To date she has received 22 renewals. In addition, we have gained two new members since 1 Nov 2023.
- Five members who previously only had mailing addresses have now added their email addresses. However, there are several members who have e-mail addresses but prefer printed mailings and are willing to pay for them.

- Expressed concern re: the on-line membership sign-up/renewal process. One member renewed, or at least attempted to do so, on 2 January via the link on our website but was not sure about the Zeffy confirmation. To date Carol has not received any independent confirmation of this action. She has received confirmation of previous renewals/sign-ups and, based on her experience, should have received confirmation by now. Jerry will take steps to have Carol receive notices from Zeffy and ensure she can access the account.

Treasurer's Report: Nani Banks reported:

- Expenditures for 2023 through 31 December totaled \$19,854.39.
- Total Balance on Hand as of 31 December 2023, \$143,046.74 (Cash/checking, \$31,460.43; Savings, \$474.99; Certificate/Edward Jones, \$111,111.32).

Old Business:

- a. Book Storage status - Jill reported that the books are now organized.
 - a.i. School District Update - Jill and Jerry both advised that eviction from our current storage space does not appear to be imminent. Jerry and John took the action to install a deadbolt at the current facility so that the door could be locked from the inside.
 - a.ii. Oz House Update - No new news. Needs work and is less than an ideal building. Jerry proffered that we should be reluctant to invest in improvements in a facility that we do not own.
 - a.iii. New Possibilities - Jerry and John referred to a couple of prospects that may be in the offing but for which it is premature to go into details. John is working on one of them.
- b. Book Disposition Status - It was tentatively decided that the Spring Sale will take place on 20 and 21 April.
- c. Combined Federal Campaign - Jerry stated we need a volunteer to work on getting our organization included in this program. No one volunteered and action was tabled to be taken up at a later date.

New Business

- a. Review and Approve 2024 Budget - Nani presented a proposed budget which was approved (with a minor reduction in the costs for the newsletter from \$1,000 to \$800) by the Board members present. Final approved amount: \$14,375.00.
- b. Discuss need to increase donations - Jerry commented on the amounts received and budgeted for donations vs book sales and interest and stated he would make a concerted effort to increase donations to include adding a blurb to the newsletter soliciting same.
- c. Discuss plans for finding a new site - See old business above.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:10pm. The next Board meeting will be **Wednesday, February 21 at 1:00 pm** in the library meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Davidson, Conscripted Secretary of the Month