

Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

Board Meeting Minutes, 18 February 2026

Board members present: Jerry Bradley, Carol Pearson, Nani Banks, Julie Gervais, Kim Metcalf, RBL Supervisor Charissa Wagner, Deb Fields.

Call to Order:

- Meeting of the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library (FRBL) Board was called to order at 1:05 pm
- Agenda approved
- January minutes approved

President's Report

- Welcome from Jerry

RCL Branch Supervisor's Report

- Library on schedule to reopen to the public with regular hours 24 February; Grand Reopening after all improvements complete
- Infrastructure Improvements
 - Door and window replacement in progress
 - Some improvements will continue after reopen date
- Other library improvements
 - Chairs ordered through the Branch donation fund
 - Plans to get more blinds—new renovations require more than anticipated, installation TBD
- Events for Raising Public Interest
 - Friday Night Market (fairgrounds): Opportunity for Friends to have a table; possibly sell Blind Date books
 - Community Yard Sale (fairgrounds): March 28, 7-1, Library (Charissa) will have a table; Friends can share
- Volunteer Luncheon
 - Private/invite only can be a homemade potluck (public must be store purchased items only)
 - Date and time TBD, zeroing in on week of April 19

Membership VP Report

- Since November 9 new members, 10 renewals
- Thank You letters
 - A physical letter will be mailed for donations for \$100 or more
 - Carol and Nani will assist Deb with getting started and keep coordinated with donation sources

Treasurer's Report

- Nani distributed and discussed the January 2026 Monthly report and the YTD 2026 Financial report

- o Noted that the Square January 2026 Bookstore numbers did not match the Alta One Bookstore numbers because the store's cash bank deposit on Saturday 1/31 (\$359) did not get processed at Alta One until 2/2

Store Manager's Report

- Julie discussed her handout with 2025 store income
 - o Numbers based on Square report; sales at the store for that day with some "errors" (category (?))
 - o Trend increases but days are not consistent
 - o December was great, January as expected, February so far so good
 - o Saturday busiest; Thursday slowest
 - Report doesn't reflect flex Friday/Holidays
 - o 3000 books sold; 600 non-books items
 - o November members-only sale brought in \$622
- Store updates
 - o New bookcases have replaced sagging cases and store is looking good!!
 - o John, Jerry, and Gunnar cleaned out the shed behind the store—great option for temporary storage
 - o Blind Date books selling well
- Special Events
 - o Ridge Writers February 28 11-1 Reading and book signing
 - Discussed RW sales and tax; Jerry will ensure they have a separate Square so that sales are done correctly
 - o Members Only sale March 1
 - o Bag Sale preparation and date TBD
- Volunteers
 - o Need Saturday, upcoming week is good
- Donations outweigh sales
- Jerry and Nani provided another handout with store YTD monthly Income vs Expenses; doesn't include dinner ticket sales through the store

February Fundraiser Dinner 02/21

- Waitlist
 - o Currently oversold by 2 but every guest will be seated
 - o Will discuss how to manage a waitlist at dinner debrief for next year
- Set up
 - o Springhill Suites manage as part of the contract; Kim and her daughters also help. Everyone super gracious with their time and efforts for non profits
- Wine/ABC
 - o Mr. Metcalf has it; will need additional Square for open bar
- Raffle license has not come back; will do silent auction
 - o Need bid sheets
 - o 14 items; pay at the end
 - o Book Store gift certificates and Memberships at a separate table
 - will also be sold and have info on benefits to the library
 - o Jerry will bring a Square and have QR code for membership

- Springhill does tear down along with the amazing Metcalfs!

New Business

- Reference to earlier in the meeting—already discusses Thank You letters to major donors
- Online book sales
 - Vicki S is getting books on Amazon—it's a work in progress
- Book storage
 - Keep paid storage through March—cost rises from \$39 to \$79/month
 - Shed behind store OK for temporary but with previous break in issues etc, not an option for collectibles it's just not as secure
- Kern Valley Health Care grant
 - Kim reached out, they will require a POC from Friends (Jerry and Charissa)
 - Key words required in grant aimed at physical and mental health benefits to children (use summer reading program etc as examples)
 - Grant is a general fund not specific
 - KVH will send a template with requirements
- Ideas for fundraiser options for 2026
 - Contact POC at Maturango and other sources for possible grants
 - Summer Movie at RC Cinema- Nani, Julie, Jerry
 - Master Mystery Productions
 - November 6-7 & 13-14 7:30 at the library
 - Kids are involved
 - Not sure on \$\$ generated, tickets cost \$20
 - Friends set up ticket sales at the Store and via website/Zeffy
 - Refreshments?
 - Book Store
 - Volunteers through new younger Rotary members
 - Pizza Factory
 - We have one day per month through June, will continue to sign up as they release months (Deb)
 - "Meet the Friends"- volunteers at PF on our fundraiser day to promote and inform possible new members?

Adjournment and Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be 1:00 pm Wednesday March 18.