



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
Board Meeting Minutes, October 19, 2022

Board members present: Jerry Bradley, Sandy Bradley, Dave Burdick, Carol Pearson, Peggy Johnson, and Barbara Lupei. **Library Administrator:** Charissa Wagner. **Guests:** Nani Banks, Jil Richards, and Donna Rosenthal.

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. The agenda was approved. The minutes of the September 20, 2022 meeting were approved.

President's Report:

No news to report

Librarian's Report:

- Charissa announced that staff member Vickie is retiring today. She has been working 19.5 hours per week. They are currently interviewing for a replacement. There are other staff members who are nearing retirement too.
- The branch received some new staff computers similar to the new patron computers.
- The Infrastructure Grant runs through 2026. Since the original bids for work were obtained in March, new bids must now be requested to make sure the projects can stay within the funding granted. The County will be administering the grant. One possible project is light switches so the breakers don't have to be used to turn the lights on and off each day.
- The Kern County Library is proud to join local efforts championed by Kern Behavioral Health & Recovery Services (KernBHRS) in becoming a naloxone (also known as brand Narcan) distributing organization by providing free Narcan to residents at our libraries throughout Kern County. NARCAN is a medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose. The Ridgecrest Branch expects to receive 10 boxes (2 doses each) in the shipment soon. Some branches have already run out and are requesting more.
- Kern County Libraries have received 12 scholarships from California State Library to help adults attend Career Online High School. Applications will open online. Programs can be completed in 5 months with an online mentor helping each student along the way.
- The California State Library is also going to fund another two years of the popular databases they have provided since 2020 that include EBSCO Learning Express, LinkedIn Learning, COURSERA, NORTHSTAR Digital Literacy Assessment, SKILLSHARE, and GetSetUp.

Vice-President, Membership Report: Carol reported

- This is basically a sales report. We enrolled 114 new members. That would translate to \$570 in dues. We were a bit sketchy in tracking overdue members who renewed but our cashier notes suggested 21 did renew. Six of those paid the \$10 family renewal. This would total \$705 in dues from the two weeks of sales.
- The new members equal a 50% increase in membership.

Old Business:

- The book sale brought in \$4,100 including memberships.
- Barbara will write the thank-you articles for newsletter and Daily Independent.
- Book Disposition: There was discussion on whether we should continue with the plan to have the county library delivery driver pick up boxes of books to take away. MOTION: Peggy moved that we continue with the plan to have the county library move out as many boxes of

books as possible. Dave seconded the motion. The motion passed. Closed boxes with a simple label (fiction, non-fiction, children's, etc) will be prepared for him and picked up depending on space available in his truck.

- There was discussion on whether to continue with the arrangement made by Donna for her friend to bring a minivan and load it with approximately 12 boxes of books to take to a book festival. MOTION: Dave moved that we should move ahead with this plan. Peggy seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.
- The current storage location is now open to the north through the window area to an alternate door. The Waste Management trash container will be moved to be more readily accessible from that door.
- The owner of The Oz House, located near the intersection of Church and Downs, would like it to be a community resource. She would let us use it for the cost of utilities and insurance. Carol will contact her to schedule a walk through inspection for board members. We do not know the condition or whether it would be available for several years.

New Business:

- Barbara Bane was nominated as an Interim Board Member by Jerry. Peggy seconded the nomination. The vote was unanimous.
- Sandy was established as the head of the Nominating Committee for the upcoming election. Dave and Carol agreed to serve on the committee.
- Dave reported on a county block grant idea. His proposal was/is to aim only at the old K-Mart building and to propose to the county some action that would allow various public support agencies to move in cost-free (no rent, utilities, etc) to provide one-stop shopping for people needing services. He and Jerry will approach our district supervisor at an appropriate time to test his reactions, and they will then write a proposal to the county before the drop-dead date.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m. The next Board meeting will be **Wednesday, November 16th** at 10:00am in the Library meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lupei, Secretary