

**Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
Board Meeting Minutes, 21 Aug 2024**

Board Members Present: Nani Banks, Jerry Bradley, Jack Davidson, John Freeman, Nancy Saxton, Carol Pearson, Jil Richards.

Jerry Bradley called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM.
The agenda was approved with one amendment.
The minutes from the May 15 meeting were approved.

Presidents Report:

- John was designated Secretary for this month's meeting. Jerry also talked about the need for the FRBL to find and elect a permanent secretary.

Librarian's Report: Charissa provided via email

- **Lunch at the Library:**
Partnered with Sierra Sands Unified School District, served 2,897 child lunches in 33 days (6/6-7/12). Had a variety of lunch visitors from local organizations (Waste Management recycle truck, princesses from Sierra Academy of Dance every Friday, IWV CERT, Ridge Writers, Children's Burn Foundation, Liberty Ambulance, Kern County Fire Station #84, Ridgecrest PACT with Child IDs, and Navy Federal Credit Union).
- **Summer Reading Challenge**
We asked all ages to read or listen to 10 books or for 10 hours to be a finisher. Bonus finishers could fill out paper entry forms to win prizes. Thanks to the generous donations from Roadrunner Ridge Community Foundation (\$500 for gift cards) and the Ridgecrest Lions Club (\$250 in gift cards), along with items donated by Ridgecrest Toys for Tots, Ridgecrest United Methodist Church, and Schu-Fu Martial Arts Dojo #119, plus a donation from Mama Mia's Cakes and Treats for cake decorating classes and a local troop for some boxes of Girl Scout cookies, we were able to reward ALL of our bonus finishers and some of our finishers with a prize. Last summer, we had 329 finishers, so we were able to beat our number! Last summer we had 79 early learners, 153 children and tweens, 17 teens, and 80 adults.



Ridgecrest Branch Library

Read, Renew, Repeat
#2024SummerReadingChallenge



Finishers: 66% (330/501) Bonus finishers: 130

Books: 270 people Minutes: 60 people

Early Learner (0-5yrs): 100	Child (6-8yrs): 63
Tween (9-12yrs): 64	Teen (13-17yrs): 26
Adult: 77	*Staff: 86% (6/7)

Prizes: 12 items, 86 gift cards, 66 boxes of Girl Scout cookies



ALL ages can participate!

We also had a lot of performances this summer: Omnipresent Puppet Theater (sponsored by Ridge Writers), Magic of Josiah (sponsored by Friends of the Kern County Library), Michael Albert Pop Art (sponsored by FRBL), Magic Napoleon (sponsored by Roadrunner Ridge Community Foundation) and these last 3 were all sponsored by Lunch at the Library: Rudy Parris, Wild Man Dan, and The Butterfly Effect.

We offered programming for children every day that we were open along with some programs for tweens, teens, and adults. Generous donors purchased a lot of items from our Amazon Wish List for summer programs.

- **One Book Project:**

Annual fall countywide effort (in October and November) designed to form new connections and facilitate conversations between Kern County Library and our partners with Kern County community members. The main **Project** title is selected by CSUB English faculty and this year is, [All You Can Ever Know : a Memoir](#) by Korean Author and Adoptee, Nicole Chung. The memoir shares her adoption journey with white parents that teach her to assimilate and her struggle to fit in at a predominantly white school and the bullying she experiences rooted in Asian stereotypes. Chung goes on a search for her identity and a search for her birth parents that leads her to Korea and discovery of her cultural heritage. On 10/24, there is an Author Keynote at CSUB Icardo Center at 7 pm.

- **Furniture Update:**

Hopefully will be ordered and received this fall using branch donation funds only for the Children’s Room and adult reading area.

- **Infrastructure Grant:**

Ridgecrest Branch is in the next (third) group to be scheduled after the current group. We will not be getting new flooring or shelving so our closure is expected to be minimal compared to the closures you may have seen for other branches like Southwest, Wilson, and Kern River Valley. Funding available will determine the specific projects (due to shifting contractor and materials costs), but high on the priority list is an improvement to the slats currently impeding air flow from our air conditioning units. This change was made at Rathbun Branch Library (has similar layout to us) and it has made a huge difference, so they expect a similar result for us.

Vice President, Membership Report:

- Carol reported that, since our last meeting in May, she has received 18 renewals and one new member. Regarding our August newsletter, she emailed copies to 153 members and used USPS for 65 printed newsletters. She also mailed three Thank You letters to members contributing \$100 or more.
- Jil recommended changes for the FRBL membership form and said she would put the changes in the next newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Nani provided copies of the latest report, which covers May through July.

- **Total Income:** May - \$5,061.93, June - \$841.15, July - \$1,228.17, **Total - \$7,131.25**
- Noteworthy Income Items: May Interest - \$3756.39, July Movie Tickets - \$637.00
- **Total Expenses:** May - \$1470.99, June - \$79.46, July - \$206.95, **Total - \$1,757.40**
- Noteworthy Expense Items: May - Annual Insurance for Annex - \$1,237.00
- Balance on Hand: April 30 - \$146,443.39, May 31 - \$150,034.33, **July 31 - \$151,817.24**

Old Business:

- **Book Storage Status** – We are still targeting the old Ridgecrest Library as a retail location for used book sales. The next steps are to set up a meeting with the Quilt Guild leadership who currently use the old library for workshops, followed by a meeting with the Historic Society leadership to present our proposal.
Jerry and John met with Cody Chriswell, an associate of County Supervisor Phil Peters, on July 3rd to discuss the old Ridgecrest Library and to solicit help from the County in identifying other buildings or land that might be leased to FRBL.
We need to meet with Ridgecrest City leadership to solicit their help in identifying any potential City solutions.
- **Book Disposition Status** - Jil indicated that the Petroglyph festival is planned for Nov 2nd and 3rd and suggested that we hold our fall book sale that same weekend. Nani made a motion to that effect, Jack seconded, and the Board approved Nov2-3 as the date for our fall book sale.
We have received a lot of books recently – Jil received a number of paperbacks donated by a friend of FRBL. Jerry and John picked up a large number of largely military history books donated by the Weapons Museum. And John received a number of books from a friend.

Discussion ensued about not accepting additional books until we are better able to store, sort, and sell them.

Jil discussed the proposed book sale collaboration between FRBL and Blue Elephant Enterprises (Frank Johns). Blue Elephant will provide the Board with a new contract describing the sales agreement. The Board will then decide whether legal advice is necessary.

A question arose about paying a Board Member to research the books to be provided to Blue Elephant Enterprises. After discussion about conflict of interest or apparent conflict of interest, Jil made a motion that Board Members are not eligible for compensation from the Board for any services rendered. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board.

Jerry described how he set up an account with Thrift Books and used that account to sell 21 books to them. He said the process worked well and therefore Thrift Books provides another vehicle for FRBL to sell books. Thrift Books paid for the shipping cost but it is not clear that they will continue to offer free shipping for future sales by FRBL.

- **Little Free Libraries** – Discussion tabled until our next meeting.
- **Fund Raisers** – FRBL received \$637.00 in income in July from the sale of movie tickets. Eleven of the 12 tables have been sold for the Rotary sponsored dinner. This will net a significant income for FRBL.

New Business:

- Jack, Nani, and Carol have been chosen for the Nominating Committee for the selection of new Board member candidates.

A booth at the Petroglyph Festival previously cost a non-profit \$150.00 which the Board decided was not worth it for FRBL. The consensus of the Board was to hold the book sale at our regular outdoor location adjacent to the Annex.

Jil cited a need for a FRBL Reference Library which would be a set of Standard Operating Procedures for positions, operations, and events.

The Board agreed to change the book pricing structure at the Library. The new pricing will be Paperbacks 2 for \$1, and hardback books \$1 each.

Discussion on planning next year's budget items was tabled until our next meeting.

Action Items:

- Jil will provide Board members a copy of the draft agreement with the book seller.
- John will set up meetings with the Quilt Guild and the Historic Society to present our proposal for restoring the Old Library to a library again where FRBL will stock and sell used books.
- Jerry and Jil will resolve the issue of whether Thrift Books or FRBL pays shipping costs. *(Note: Following the meeting, Jerry determined that Thrift Books will only pay shipping costs for the first box).*
- John will follow up with Cody Chriswell to see what options the County can offer us.

- Jack will search for SOPs or SOP type information that exists that will support a FRBL Reference Library and he asked that all Board members search as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.