

**Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library  
Board Meeting Minutes, 16 October 2024**

**Board Members Present:** Nani Banks, Jerry Bradley, Jack Davidson, John Freeman, Carol Pearson.

- Jerry Bradley called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.
- The agenda was approved.
- The minutes from the 18 Sept meeting were approved as corrected.

**Presidents Report:**

- Jerry deferred on a formal President's report and said he would comment as needed on Board items and discussion.
- Jerry designated John as Secretary for this month's meeting.

**Librarian's Report:** Charissa provided via email.

- We have our last mushroom class in the series with Hillside Mushrooms from Bakersfield on Sat 10/19 featuring reishi and shiitake mushrooms.
- We have new brochure format instead of a calendar, featuring age group targeted events showcased. One for Early Learners (0-5 years), Kids (6-11 years), Tween/Teen (9-18 years), and Adults. This format makes it easier to see what applies to the age group you are looking for and allows for more descriptions than would fit on the previous calendar format.
- The discounts and special programs for International Day of Older Persons was passed around so that people could see (and take pictures of) any discounts or programs that they might want to partake in.
- Two opportunities coming up to help with local community projects. First one is Thank-A-Veteran cards or coloring pages, which are handed out to local veterans via the Ridgecrest Veterans Advisory Council, VFW, and Elks Lodge. We usually get a few classes to participate, but encourage groups, organizations, and individuals to participate as well either at home or through programs at the library. We provide basic supplies in the branch. Second one is Thanksgiving cards for seniors, in partnership with a local moms group, MAEVE Ridgecrest. They deliver Thanksgiving and Easter cards to High Desert Haven and Bella Sera, alternating which place gets the cards unless they can gather enough cards to deliver to both places.
- Upcoming branch closures: Thu 11/28, Fri 11/29, Sat 11/30 for Thanksgiving and Fri 12/6 for All Staff Training Day in Bakersfield.

**Vice President, Membership Report:**

- Carol reported that, since our last meeting in September, she has received 3 renewals and no new members.

**Treasurer's Report:** Nani provided copies of the latest report, which covers September.

- **Total Income:** \$43.23
- Noteworthy Income Items: Forwarded Assets (Totally Tables); -\$560.00
- **Total Expenses:** \$0.00
- Balance on Hand: Sept 30: \$151,030.57
- Jack Davidson and Judy Gervais audited the 2023 books.

### **Old Business:**

- **Book Storage Status** – We are still targeting the old Ridgecrest Library as a future retail location for used book sales. John contacted the President of the Ridgecrest Quilt Guild to offer them a briefing on the proposal that FRBL intends to submit to the Historic Society of the Upper Mojave, who is the manager of the County-owned old Ridgecrest Library. Unfortunately, the Ridgecrest Quilt Guild met with the Historic Society to discuss our plans to submit a proposal, and the Historic Society Board then met and announced that they had decided that the Ridgecrest Quilt Guild will maintain access to the old Ridgecrest Library for as long as they wanted the facility. Therefore, our next move is to set up a meeting with the Historic Society Board to let them know more about who we are, what we do, and why we are so interested in the old Ridgecrest Library.

We were unable to set up a meeting with Cody Chriswell, an associate of County Supervisor Phil Peters, in October because of scheduling difficulties. John will attempt to set up a meeting with Cody in November 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 following the election to solicit their help in identifying any potential City solutions.

- **Book Disposition Status** - In preparation for our upcoming Book Sale on November 2-3, Jerry said he would ask Jil to put out a report within a week or so, identifying people who have signed up to haul and move books and work as cashiers.  
For now, no contracts have been signed with book sellers to sell FRBL books to them.
- **Little Free Libraries** – Three of the Free Libraries have had their doors ripped off. Nancy's son built a new door replacement for one, and Jerry repaired another one.

### **New Business:**

- **Status of Candidates for Board Vacancies** - Jerry indicated that we have 2 Board vacancies to fill - one At Large vacancy, and one Secretary position. Jerry introduced Dr. Vicki Shoaf and said she is a possible candidate for the At Large position, as is Denise Gorman. He also indicated the Kimberly Metcalf may be a candidate for the Secretary position. Elections will be held next month.

- **Candidate Library Projects to fund next year** - Jerry showed a chart that detailed book sale income for FRBL over the years demonstrating the reduction in income that followed the Ridgecrest 7.1 earthquake on July 5, 2019.  
Jerry suggested that FRBL could put money into a book trust. He asked Charissa to provide information on how much the Library would like to get from the FRBL.
- **Discuss Library of Things** - Jerry discussed the idea of a Library of Things. A Library of Things (LOT) is a collection of non-traditional items that are available to borrow from a library. These items can include: toys, games, tools, electronics, musical instruments, art supplies, science kits, kitchen appliances, gardening equipment, and recreational equipment.
- **Discuss Edward Jones Investment Options** - Jerry indicated that Edward Jones has a variety of CD options for consideration with maturity dates from 4 months to a year or more.
- **Committee to review and update Bylaws, Standing Rules, and create SOPs** - We need to establish a committee. Bylaws were updated in April 2023. We need to develop SOPs. Jack has agreed to help.

**Action Items:**

- Jil will provide a report identifying people who will work in support of the Nov 2-3 Book Sale.
- John will follow up with Cody Chriswell to see what options the County can offer us.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.