



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
Board Meeting Minutes, 20 March 2024

Board members present: Jerry Bradley, Nani Banks, Jack Davidson, Carol Pearson, Nancy Saxton.

Library Supervisor: Charissa Wagner.

Jerry called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM.

The agenda was approved without amendment.

The minutes from the last meeting (21 February 2024) were approved with some minor changes/corrections to be made that Jack (Acting Secretary) had overlooked.

President's Report:

- Jerry asked Jack to serve as acting secretary for the meeting. Jack agreed. Jerry then advised that we did not need to amend our by-laws to address our situation of not having a permanent Secretary.
- Nancy shared a sample of a thank you letter that she thought we could use to prepare our own thank you form.
- Jerry asked if Carol had received any response as a result of her email solicitation for Secretary. Carol responded that she had received two acknowledgements but that neither had expressed an interest in the position. Some discussion then ensued concerning the possibility of hiring someone to fill the position. Jerry advised that his wife, Sandy, was willing to serve in the position for a few months.

Librarian's Report: Charissa reported:

- **Stay & Play:** Program has been going well and attendance has been in the low 40's since it officially started the first Tue in March. It had a built in audience from the weekly Play & Chat. It will run for 3 more weeks, go back to Play & Chat format (no resource representative, no snack) for one week, and then resume for another 6 weeks with a new set of resource representatives and a snack. Kids are enjoying the new items purchased with the grant funds and snacks are not as popular as anticipated with the kids focusing on playing and exploring.
- **SRC:** Programming is mostly finalized and just waiting on a few things. We are still looking for sponsors for programming or performances. Nancy asked about sponsoring amounts and Charissa stated that amounts vary. Organizations that sponsor a program or performance will be noted as sponsoring in the calendar, on the Facebook graphic, and on a sign in the branch. Performances do not have to be sponsored by only one organization. Charissa has applied for a local grant through the RidgeWriters to cover one performance and a couple of programs. Jerry asked if the performances were already committed because if needed, the Friends could pay more to make sure the performances would happen if there was the possibility of it not happening without sponsors. Charissa said the performances will happen even if sponsors are not found but it would be nice to have some sponsors.
- **Lunch at the Library:** SSUSD has confirmed the program will run from Jun 6 - Jul 19 on Tuesday through Friday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm EXCEPT for 6/19 and 7/4 due to holidays for SSUSD. There will be hot meals on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

with cold sandwiches on Fridays due to the SSUSD kitchen being closed. Lunch will be FREE to all 18 and under with no sign up or no need to show income. Adults with a child can purchase a meal for \$5. We will be hiring for the summer 1 Extra Help Departmental Aide just for Lunch at the Library and 1 Youth Development Intern Extra Help Departmental Aide for June and July.

- Reading Challenges: Monthly challenges to read or listen to 300 minutes continues. Women's History Month Challenge is for 10 books. Color of the Month challenge color is yellow for March. In-N-Out Burger Cover to Cover Reading Challenge started 3/2/24 and runs through 4/13/24. Ages 4-12 can read or listen to 5 books or for 300 minutes to earn a free hamburger, cheeseburger, or grilled cheese. There is no expiration date on the reward card and each child can get a maximum of 3 reward cards.
- Infrastructure Grant: No confirmed update on specific projects or timeline but anticipating Fall of 2024.
- WT Cox: They sent a check for the overpayment because they didn't realize that the overpayment was to be kept for the quarterly review of pricing changes. Charissa contacted the customer service representative, who directed her to return the check and note on it that the overpayment is to be kept for potential pricing changes.
- Plastic for Lions Club: The library has a collection box for plastic bags to assist the Lions Club, who is trying to collect 1,000 lbs of plastic bags by mid February 2025. The company NextTrex will donate a bench that will be placed near the veterans memorial at Pinney Pool. This applies to CLEAN, DRY plastic bags and film that is stretchy. Grocery bags, produce bags, newspaper bags, produce bags, overwrap from bottled water, bread bags (shake out the crumbs), plastic mailers (remove labels if possible), bubble wrap, air pillows, and wrapping from pallets. Basically, if the plastic bag or film is stretchy, they will accept it. Rigid plastics that tear like paper or do not tear at all are NOT acceptable. For more details on what is and is not accepted visit <https://nextrex.com/view/educate#materials1>

Vice-President, Membership Report: Carol reported:

- Since our last meeting (21 Feb) we have gained two new members and three renewals.

Treasurer's Report: Nani Banks reported:

- For the month of February our income was \$2,602.72 and expenses were \$3,609.60.
- For the year (through February) income was \$3951.96 and expenses were \$3,913.33.
- Ending balances as of 29 February are:

Cash/checking:	\$ 31,264.63
Savings:	\$ 474.99
<u>Certificate/Edward Jones:</u>	<u>\$111,345.75</u>
Total:	\$143,085.37

Old Business:

- **Book Storage Status**
 - Ridgecrest Vineyard Church Property (Heritage) - Jerry reported that the church has two available rooms: one approximately 3,000 sq feet and the other approximately 4,000 sq feet. Either one would be a very good site, but rent would be at least \$1,700 per month which is too expensive for our organization.
 - Old Ridgecrest Library - Jerry advised that he and John Freeman met with Tex Hoppus, a board member of the Historic Society of the Upper Mojave Desert who has been involved in restoring many of the county's historic buildings. Based on their conversation it seems that the old library may be available for us to use as a bookstore, though we may have to store books elsewhere. We would not have to pay rent but would be responsible for utilities and maintenance. In addition, we

would have to help the Quilters organization find a new location. John and Jerry will continue to pursue the matter.

- **Book Disposition:** Carol reported the following on Jil's behalf:
 - Julie Gervais has dropped off sale flyers and bookmarks at the library. Please distribute to the community. She also ordered some reading tracker bookmarks and reading stickers to giveaway as a thank-you's to customers at the sale. Please advise if there is anything else we are giving away for donation incentives so that signs can be made.
 - Kathy has a printed layout for the tables and will be at the sale to direct setup and tear down. There will be a table of collectibles for sale that she will remove before the bag sale on Sunday.
 - Jil does not have a problem selling a 100 boxes of books to Frank Johns after the sale on Sunday but is opposed to giving away our banker's boxes. We will charge a deposit fee of \$2 per box of books in a banker's box w/lid.
 - Regarding allowing Frank Johns to make on-line sales on our behalf, she would prefer to table the issue pending further research by her and Naomi.

New Business

- Jerry worked with Nani and Carol to create spreadsheets reflecting donors names and amounts given for the last five years. They will be incorporated in the news letter.
- The Board agreed to allow Frank Johns to sell a limited (10) number of books as a trial to determine if it is a viable method for disposing of books and generating revenue.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 PM. The next Board meeting will be **Wednesday, 17 April 2024 at 1:00 PM** in the library meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Davidson, Acting Secretary