



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
Board Meeting Minutes, August 16, 2023

Board members present: Jerry Bradley, Carol Pearson, Peggy Johnson, Jil Richards, Nani Banks, Barbara Bane, Julie Gervais, and Barbara Lupei.

Jerry called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.
The agenda was approved.
The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

President's Report: Jerry reported

- Three options for the board to consider
 1. Find a home to store, sell, and work from
 2. Don't find a home, get out of the book business, focus on less strenuous fundraisers
 3. Buy or build a place to suit our needs with savings and fundraisers
- He estimates about 9 months before FRBL *must* least the SSUSD site.

Librarian's Report: Charissa reported

- Summer Reading Challenge Finishers: In 2023, we had 354 total finishers: 250 Children (Early Learners, Children, and Tweens), 24 Teen, and 80 Adults who read or listened to 10,973 books and 93,231 minutes! In 2022, we had 247 total finishers: 176 Children (Early Learners, Children, and Tweens), 19 Teen, and 52 Adults.
- We had a successful Lunch at the Library, with 2,897 child lunches served. Sierra Sands Unified School District provided lunches from June 1 through July 7 and Kern County Superintendent of Schools (in Bakersfield) provided lunches from July 11 through July 28. Sierra Academy of Dance had a princess come every Fri from June 2 through July 14 to read stories and give out stickers or temporary tattoos to kids. We also had a number of other lunch visitors.
- We had some community support in the form of funds to sponsor performances and prizes, in addition to some wonderful programming partners, who helped offer amazing programs. A full report will be included in the next newsletter, but to showcase a few: Desert Valleys Employee Foundation was our big outside donor this summer, donating \$500 for Summer Reading Challenge prizes. The East Sierra Branch of the CA Writers Club gave the library branch a \$300 grant that paid for the Omnipresent Puppet Theater performance of Puss in Boots and some supplies for the DIY Magnetic Poetry Kits. The East Sierra Branch of the CA Writers Club put on a successful, four day Junior Writers Boot Camp, the Owens Valley Career Development Center taught our community about Navajo Code Talkers, Lori Morris taught Zentangle to all ages, Will Fink offered some exposure to synthesizers and electronic music, AK Zer0 Gravity sponsored an unofficial, unsanctioned Pokemon Trading Card Game Tournament, and [RIDG]Gaming put on a Family Video Game Time.
- We have a grant that allows seniors (60+) or disabled adults to receive a variety of technology assistance. Appointments outside of Bakersfield are primarily virtual. We had an in-person opportunity in June, but Kern County Library only has one staff member for this grant. Kern County Aging and Adult Services is offering the same program through the same grant and they do come to Ridgecrest to provide in person assistance.
- Senator Shannon Grove's office holds mobile office hours at the library, monthly on the second Tue from 1:15 to 3pm. Last week was the first time and we had several people stop by and chat with Dominic, her field representative.

- We recently started a new effort with the Kern Literacy Council to provide free tutoring to kids and adults, for a variety of subjects, including citizenship. Volunteer tutors are needed in Ridgecrest, though I've been assured that people wanting tutoring in Ridgecrest will not have to wait for months before a tutor will work with them. People interested in volunteering will fill out a Kern County Library volunteer interest online form and the Kern Literacy Council's online volunteer application. People interested in having a tutor can request a tutoring appointment on the Kern County Library website.
- We have implemented an online program partner request form for people who might want to use the library to offer programs to our communities. Interested people will submit a request which is reviewed and approved by management before being discussed and added to our monthly calendar.
- We received some new chairs for our branch recently which are providing some color. We are still waiting on the surplus process to get our old chairs removed.
- As we approach our second year of the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program, we are seeing more little ones reaching that 1000 book milestone! I believe we had 6 finishers just this summer.
- Later this month, local Tammy Pounds will be reading her book "Sophie the Super Host" (illustrated by Feather Branson). We will also feature some books and info about state parks and the state park passes that are available for checkout.
- This fall's One Book Project features accessibility and disability awareness. The main title is "Sitting Pretty: The View from My Ordinarily Resilient Disabled Body" by Rebekah Taussig. There are several companion titles for various ages. Stay tuned for the lineup of speakers and programming at Kern County Library branches along with CSU Bakersfield and other items organizations.

Vice-President, Membership Report: Carol reported

- During the early summer I sent out renewal notices to the 79 members whose membership had expired on dates between 2019 and ending in 2022. There were 37 who had email addresses. 7 of those resulted in disabled email boxes, unable to deliver, moved away and not found. A couple replied that they would follow up at the library but have not yet done so. Basically there were no renewals to date from that group who each had their expiration date in the email that I sent them. The second group of 42 postcards sent to those without email addresses returned 6 or 7 renewals and some of those provided email addresses that I did not have previously. So my efforts to contact these folks did not yield very much.
- Then in late July and now in August I went through my total 375 member listing and coded each individual as to their having email addresses or just mailing addresses. I have 244 with email addresses and the balance of 131 with just regular mailing addresses. There are some like our business and organization supporters that I feel should receive regular printed newsletters. There are other individuals who don't have or use computers and at least one of them has already requested the \$20 print option. Many of the others are likely to step up and furnish their email addresses.
- If a member was in the pre 2023 group and individually reminded of their expired date and does **not renew** before our next newsletter date, I will remove them from my newsletter list. Right now I have 25 in that category who provided their email addresses. And there are 35 non renewals in the snail mail category. Bear in mind that this newsletter snail mailing went to everyone except the 33 who had requested the newsletter by email for some time. I wanted to provide the best opportunity to as many as possible. Their expiration dates were shown on the mailing label which was a second reminder for the pre 2023 group.
- I have some uncertainty about the online membership payments. The latest one that Jerry sent to me clearly stated "New \$10.00 payment received." I can easily print them for my documentation. I'm not so sure about ones I received earlier this year. Nani, when credits for this appear in our AltaOne account, are the individuals names included? The answer to

this was No, but Zeffy provides a spreadsheet that can be customized to show all the info they entered, just names, or name/address.

Treasurer's Report: Nani reported

- Nani distributed the May, June, and July Monthly Financial Reports, and the Financial Status Reports dated May 31, 2023 and July 31, 2023. She walked us through the reports in detail and answered questions. We discussed the Restricted Assets category of income and the difficulty of tracking the funds as we need receipts to verify they were spent as intended. Jerry asked if she had received receipts for the \$500 donation for the SRC and Nani replied that she had not received any receipts from Charissa since February. After discussion, a **motion was made** that Charissa be required to submit her receipts quarterly dated March 31st, June 30th, September 30th, and December 31st of each year. A two-week grace period will be granted to complete the final days in the quarter. The motion was passed unanimously. The board agreed that she is free, and even encourage to submit receipts more frequently, either monthly or as incurred.

Old Business:

- The summer movie event was very successful. The final total raised was \$561.00 including the percentage of the concessions shared by the theater. Using Zeffy and working with the theater was very low effort to raise that amount.
- Book Storage Status: Jerry spoke with Pam Smith, our point of contact with the SSUSD, to let her know how we are reducing our inventory. They are still considering either demolishing or rebuilding. Either way, they will need us out of the way.
- The Oz house might be a consideration if it were a donation or low-cost purchase. The owner has been out of contact and may have become frustrated with the project. If we did get it eventually, we might have to replace the wiring or possibly add a storage building.
- Book Disposition Status: Jil reported a total of about 1,100 to 1,200 boxes of books. These include about 926 boxes that are sorted (547 of these are non-fiction) and 212 boxes left to sort. There are about 415 boxes of books that were looked up online (for value) 4 or 5 years ago that are probably not really valuable. Pat has 3 boxes. Maybe a total of about 4 boxes can go online for \$75.00 or more. The rest might go in a sale valued at \$2.00 to \$20.00. There are movie DVDs and VHS tapes but there is little interest in these now. The music CDs are still very popular. There are 14 boxes of these that are being sorted now. All the materials we sent to PBA Galleries have been sold and we have been paid. Jil doesn't plan to send more to them without further study.

New Business

- Nominating Committee: Three board members have announced they will not run for re-election this year, including Barbara Lupei, Barbara Bane, and Peggy Johnson. There has also been discussion of adding a VP for Fundraising (other than book sales). Jerry asked for volunteers for the Nomination Committee but there were not any, so he appointed Barbara Bane and Julie Gervais.
- Fall Sale: The dates for the Fall Sale were chosen to coordinate with the Petroglyph Festival. We have never tried this before thinking we would get fewer people, but the Board decided to see if more people would stop by our sale since they were already out. The dates are Saturday, November 4th (opening at 9am for members, 10am to the public, and closing at 4pm) and Sunday, November 5th (opening at 11am for member, noon to the public, and closing at 4pm). Julie will design the flyer and have them printed. Jerry said he could print them at home to save some money for the organization. A supply will be given to the Matungo Museum to hand out. We agreed to continue the bookmark size handouts in the library as well. Peggy volunteered to organize the volunteers for cashiers. Barbara B. offered to recruit muscle for set up, fencing, and clean-up.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:46pm. The next Board meeting will be **Wednesday, September 20th at 1:00pm** in the Library meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lupei, Secretary