



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
Board Meeting Minutes, September 20, 2023

Board members present: Jerry Bradley, Carol Pearson, Jil Richards, Barbara Bane, Julie Gervais, and Barbara Lupei. **Library Supervisor:** Charissa Wagner. **Guest:** Terri Middlemiss.

Jerry called the meeting to order at 1:01pm.
The agenda was approved.
The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

President's Report: Jerry reserved comment to agenda items.

Librarian's Report: Charissa reported

- Training on the 3D printer is available. See the events calendar. A few families have completed the training already. Once trained, people can schedule appointments to use the printer.
- September is National Library Card Sign-up Month. The KCL is offering a large selection of new card designs for new users and current users alike. Charissa passed around a flyer sharing the designs. Library cards can be upgraded to a new design for \$2 unless your card has normal wear and tear and would be replaced. The number will be different, so if you have your number memorized you may not want a new card design. If you use Libby, we will have to merge the old number with the new number to keep your place in the queue for any holds and to access your existing digital library.
- The One Book Project continues with recommended books (and optional discussions) focusing on disabilities this year. The library is partnering with other organizations that offer services for people with learning disabilities and vision disabilities. Charissa is particularly interested in getting Braille Institute service sign-ups and cartridges more active within the community through the library.
- Storytime sessions have been increased to include sessions for babies and families. See the events calendar.
- The Thank-A-Veteran project has not yet started. We are starting it earlier this year, in October instead of just having it in November. I will be bringing them to a few of the local veteran appreciation events that I am aware of to be handed out to local veterans, so we can use as many as we can get. We can provide basic supplies like blank paper for cards and themed stickers for individuals, classes, or groups.
- NARCAN distribution and training is ongoing.
- On September 25th, the Kern Literacy Council is partnering with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library nonprofit organization. Children from birth to age five, no matter their family's income, will be able to register to receive high-quality books in the mail each month for free. It was mentioned that the program might be bi-lingual in California but that had not been confirmed yet.
- Jil recommended anchor boxes to Charissa, a small box of suicide prevention tools that might be a good addition to the library. KGET news said they are going to be distributed throughout the county but didn't give any further details.
- Jerry mentioned the desktop magnifier for the visually impaired. Since there isn't room to place it in the library, other options were discussed including the Lions, the Hospital's Senior Services Program, and the Veteran's Services Program. Jerry will check with these organiza-

tions. Rather than sell or donate it to one person, he would like to see it available for the community.

- Barbara Bane stated that she feels the library focuses services more on children and teens than on adults. Barbara Lupei said she felt the collection was balanced that way now too, though that may be determined by demand. Charissa explained that adult programs during the day are not well attended. She reminded us of the recent series of finance classes and Cultural Exchange movie series planned for adults.

Vice-President, Membership Report: Carol reported

- During August she had 23 renewals. RidgeWriters renewed for two years because they realized they were behind.
- After collecting and confirming email addresses for members, Carol will only need to mail 80 newsletters in November at a cost of \$52.80 for postage and \$116.00 for printing. This totals \$168.80, a total savings of \$142.20 over the previous November. This will be a continuous savings for the Friends over time.

Treasurer's Report: Nani was not present

- Nani provided the August Monthly Financial Report, and the Financial Status Report dated August 2023 via email in advance of the meeting. She also provided a narrative that explained postings to income and expenses. Jerry pointed out that our projected income is still \$5K short of the projected budget.

Old Business:

- Book Storage Status: There was less water damage from the recent rain than Jil thought. Everything but a few boxes is sorted now. Jil also reported that the construction worker's fencing is taking up a little more of the courtyard space, but this may be temporary.
- The Oz house owner is still having work done on the wiring. It continues to be our only option.
- Nominating Committee: They have one possible recruit. Jerry has a couple of names he can pass along.
- Fall Sale: Julie shared the design for the Fall Sale Flyer, which was great, as usual! These will be posted around town and on Facebook. Bookmark size versions will be distributed at the library as well. Barbara B. was supplied with sources for non-member recruits needed for moving boxes included the high school key club and the Mormon volunteer group. The fencing we'll need for overnight security can be borrowed from Maturango Museum with help from Bob and Peter. We discussed changing prices in order to move more books but decided that since this is the first time this selection of books have been displayed, and they will all be sorted, we should stick with our usual prices.

New Business

- Fund Raising Options:
 1. Movie - We do have the option to sponsor more than one movie per year. Nani would like to coordinate another one. They are not a great deal of work for the Friends like a book sale. We just need to check with Kelly to find out the dates and movies available and then advertise the event. We set the price. It must be held on a Saturday morning.
 2. Community Yard Sale at the Fairgrounds - will not be held again soon, maybe in the spring. The main reason for the high income from this year's sale was the specialty gaming items and poster donated by Sue Parker's son.
 3. Weekly Sale - if we find or build a property.
 4. Dinner/Auction - the Maturango Museum finds this option to be a great deal of work and they have some paid staff to work on it.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:31pm. The next Board meeting will be **Wednesday, October 18th at 1:00pm** in the Library meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lupei, Secretary