

FRBL Board Meeting Minutes – September 17, 2025

Meeting Call to Order

- Meeting of the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library (FRBL) Board was called to order at 1:02 PM.
- Agenda approved with no additions or deletions.
- Minutes from the last meeting approved.
- Board Members Jerry Bradley, Nani Banks, Carol Pearson, Vickie Schauf, Julie Gervais, John Freeman and Kim Metcalf were in attendance along with Library Branch Supervisor Charissa Wagner.

President's Report

- Discussion about board vacancies in preparation for annual meeting and election of officers in November.
- We still need a secretary.
- Combining the store manager and VP of book sales positions was suggested.

Library Branch Supervisor's report

- Desert Empire Fair Reading challenge for ages 4-18.
 - Fairgrounds donated entry coupons for ages 6-18.
 - Drawing for unlimited ride wristbands.
- Collecting plastic for the Elks Lodge bench.
- October programming for the International Day of Older Persons program.
 - Hosting financial programs, a movie, card making, and snack bingo.
 - Police department presentations on fraud prevention and physical safety.
- New programs starting in September:
 - Junk Journal Decorating (monthly).
 - Community culture share program.
 - September: Vietnam.
 - October: Latinos Unidos Club at Cero Coso (Puerto Rico).
 - Silent book club on Fridays from 1 to 2 in October.
- Branch closure for infrastructure work: November 4th through January 19th (hoping for sooner).
 - Work on the front entrance, concrete, paint side rail, new windows and doors, security cameras, and light switches.
 - "We've been using 16 breaker switches every day to turn on the lights and turn them off in the public."
- Express services will be provided during the closure.
 - Limited services: holds, print jobs, faxes.
 - Curbside services available.
- Possible pop-up locations for programs at county buildings or Kerr McGee.

Story Time Space

- May need to limit story time attendance, which currently averages around 20 people (children and parents).
- Limited chairs available, and concerns about breakable items in the space.

Other Locations for Programming

- Considering the senior center, health department building, and city hall as possible locations.

- City hall has been used for free by county people in the past, but unsure if this would apply to ongoing programs.
- Pop-up programming may be possible, and tables could be used to create more floor space.

Membership VP Report

- Five membership renewals received since last meeting.
 - One renewal was from business sponsor T.J. Frisbee.
- Renewal from T.J. Frisbee happened without personal contact this time.

Treasurer's Report

- August income:
 - Bookshelf at the library: \$44.85
 - Bookstore: \$935.82 (low due to cash and Square deposits made in September)
 - Movie concession stand: \$86.02
 - Membership (non-store): \$280
 - Membership (store): \$30
 - Donations (non-store): \$1,350
 - Donations (store): \$58
 - Interest from Edward Jones: \$19.99
 - Desert Valley Employees Association (Roadrunners) donation for summer reading program: \$500 (spent this summer)
- Expenses:
 - Newsletter (60 copies): \$72.11
 - Stipend: \$417.45
 - Summer reading: \$739.36
 - July electricity for the bookstore: \$62.86
 - Facility fund: \$2,431.87 (includes supplies, August rent, and office supplies)
- Year-to-date:
 - Income: \$60,722.46
 - Expenses: \$20,313.32
 - Started the year with \$162,332, now at \$202,742
 - Outstanding liabilities: \$68.30 to Southern California Edison for August

Facility Fund

- Facility fund was set up with roughly \$13,000.
- Designated for purchasing or renting a facility, or related expenses.
- Funds donated for a specific purpose must be used for that purpose.
- Rent is paid from the facility fund.
- Once the fund is exhausted, money will be taken from general funds.

Store Manager's Report

- Handout provided to show store-specific expenses.
- Report focuses on the store's perspective, separate from overall financial report.

Financial Report

- Year to date sales for the store are a little less than \$4,000.
- The ratio is roughly 60, 40 on books versus non books.
- Cash and credit cards are roughly 50, 50.
- Expenses are still running higher than the revenue, with a little more than \$4,000 loss to date.

Tammy Pounds Event

- Tammy Pounds did a reading and signing event.
- "It was nice event. She also had advertised too, so kind of her circle of people."
- The store traffic was a little bit more as a result of having Tammy there.

Advertising

- The movie theater has an opening to advertise for non-profits for \$100 for six months.
 - Nani will handle the contract.
- Material was sent to the swap sheet and it was published for a week for free.

Friday Night Market

- The Friday night market is on October 24th.
- They are looking for a volunteer to lead and organize the event.
- It sounds like it's going to be in the bigger hall.
- That week is national Friends of the Library week, so they are thinking of combining it with a members event sometime that week.

Member Event Ideas

- There was agreement on the idea of designating a specific day for a members-only event with set hours.
- Separating member and non-member events would avoid confusion about discounts and membership status.

Volunteers

- Sandy was thanked for training new volunteers.
- There may be additional new volunteers.
- Signup Genius is working well.
 - One person had trouble creating a link.
 - They suggested putting the link in favorites or logging into the site.

Storage Facility

- Vicki suggested we find an affordable storage space that might later become a store, if needed.
- The store should earn something for the library to be worth the volunteers' time.

Inventory Donations

- The store is now accepting donations.
- The only items being returned to the old annex are those deemed unsellable.
- There are differing opinions on what is considered unsellable.
- Since the store opened, approximately 50 boxes of new books have been received.
- There are still collectibles in the annex.
- Some books in the annex are rare or signed.

Sea Van and Signage

- President hasn't discussed placing a Sea van with the property owner, who is already being asked to put up a sign and fix the sidewalk.
- A smaller Home Depot building might suffice instead of a Sea van.

Raising Book Prices

- President suggested raising book prices, potentially doubling them.
 - Current prices may be too low, hindering store profitability.
 - Red Rock Books prices books at half the retail price.
- Doubling prices (e.g., paperback from \$1 to \$2, hardback from \$2 to \$4) was approved by the board.

Pricing and Categorization

- Need to make pricing easy for volunteers at checkout.

- Suggestion to create a separate "boutique area" for nicer books with flexible covers, priced individually.
- Consider putting stickers on newer donations, similar to current practice for recent publications.

Non-Book Items

- Julie suggested asking crafters/quilters to donate smaller items (under \$20) for the holidays.
- Puzzles are popular.
- 3D printed items could be sold.

Selling Collectible Books on Amazon

- Speaker suggests selling collectible books on Amazon.
- To have an Amazon seller's account, a credit card is required.
- Nani will research getting a credit card for an Amazon seller's account and on-line expenses.
- Abe Books is another place to sell collectible books.

Book Inventory

- There are valuable books available for sale.
- We currently have two books worth about \$700 each and additional books in the \$100 range.
- Need to get the books out where the collectors are; not just in Ridgecrest.

Book Signing Events

- Gene St. Aman (son of Pierre) is willing to do a book signing event.
 - Normally sells books for \$20, but would sell them for \$15 at the event, giving \$10 per book to the organization.
- Eileen Shibley is publishing a second book in a month or two and is willing to do a book signing.
- Ken Amster, who self-published two books on Amazon, is also willing to do a book signing.
 - His books are Mysteries, centered around the Los Angeles area.

Photographs

- Ken Amster is willing to share his father's (Dolph) extensive collection of photographs.

Invitations

- Consider sending out personal invitations for book signings, in addition to publicizing the events.
 - Gene St. Aman's book is specific about his father, Pierre, so invitations could be sent to those who knew him.
 - Eileen Shibley's mailing list could be used to send out invitations to her followers.

Old Business

- Movie Fundraiser results were discussed.
- Friday night market planning was discussed.
 - Julie needs help with the planning.

Spring Fundraiser

- The room is reserved at the Maturango (Spring Hill room) at no cost.
- Mediterranean theme paired with wines.
- Myrna from the Mediterranean Market will cater the meal.
 - She will write something up on each course specific to how it relates to the food itself.
 - She'll give out the recipes.
- Decorate the tables and cookbooks.

Wine License

- Need a license for wine, costs \$50.
 - Has to be done 30 days before the event.
 - Allows to serve or sell wine, beer.

Event Details

- February 21st.
- Will work on tickets and menus.
- Ticket price will not be "real, real high."
- Venue: Maturango Room at Spring Hill Suites.
 - Seats 100-120 people.

Murder Mystery Event

- Daniel will do a murder mystery event at the library.
 - He takes a portion of the ticket sales.
- Event will be in the fall of 2026.
- Friends can do advertising on Facebook and Instagram and Ridgecrest sites.

Meeting was adjourned