



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
Board Meeting Minutes, November 15, 2023

Board members present: Jerry Bradley, Carol Pearson, Barbara Bane, Julie Gervais, Peggy Johnson, and Barbara Lupei. **Library Supervisor:** Charissa Wagner. **Guests:** Sandy Bradly, Nancy Saxton, John Freeman, Jack Davidson.

Jerry called the meeting to order at 1:02pm.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

- **President's Report:** Jerry opened the meeting by thanking the departing board members. Peggy Johnson has been on the board longer than anyone currently serving and doesn't remember how many years it has been! She plans to continue with volunteer activities.
- Barbara Bane has served on the board one year and has been vocal about recommendations for improvement.
- Julie Gervais has also served on the board for one year though it has been difficult attending meetings while working full time. She will continue her work at the annex, designing flyers, and working on book sales.
- Barbara Lupei as been our secretary for 9 years.
- The departing board members were surprised with gift bags containing a Starbucks gift card and a gold reading shaman custom made (3D printed) by Jerry.

Librarian's Report: Charissa reported

- The Thank-A-Vet Art Card Project resulted in 224 cards, letters, and pictures made by families, classrooms, and scouts who participated. They were distributed to the VFW Ship 4084, Ridgecrest Veterans Advisory Council Veteran's Appreciation Lunch, and BPO Elks Lodge 1913.
- State Senator Shannon Grove's local office hours will continue to be scheduled in the library once a month on the second Tue of the month until January, at which point they will reconsider the need to come to Ridgecrest.
- The Adventure 365 Reading Challenge 2023 is still active on Beanstack until December 31st.
- Beanstack is also the app for the Read Grateful Challenge. To complete this challenge, people must read or listen and log at least 300 minutes during the month of November. This challenge runs from November 1-30, 2023. Children who complete the challenge will earn Panda Express certificates and adults will be entered in a drawing for a diamond painting or paint-by-number kit.
- The new Alexander Street Press database contains a treasure trove of videos featuring musical shows, dance productions, Broadway on Demand, the National Theatre Collections, The Royal Shakespeare Company collection, classical music, opera, and a huge collection of PBS videos that includes their literary adaptations. This database can be used from home by entering your library card number.
- The 3D printer is getting more use thanks to training sessions completed. There will not be training in December.
- A variety of adult programs are scheduled in December. See the calendar for dates and times. (Link to Ridgecrest Branch December calendar <https://kerncountylibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/RID-DEC-2023.pdf>)

- Tutors are now available at all KCL branches in person or online. Volunteers are welcome to volunteer to provide tutoring services.
- Closed days coming up include
 - November
 - Thursday the 23rd through Saturday the 25th - Thanksgiving
 - December
 - Friday the 1st - All Staff Training Day in Bakersfield
 - Friday the 22nd through Monday January 1st - Winter Recess
- Barbara Bane mentioned that she tried the Zip Books service and it was fabulous.

Vice-President, Membership Report: Carol reported

- At our November 4-5 Sale we added 13 new members and 37 renewals.
- Our November newsletter was the first that we did without use of bulk mail. Emailed newsletters numbered 202 at no cost to our budget. I did send out more USPS newsletters than first anticipated because about 20 of the email addresses I had came back “not found” etc. and those membership folks qualified based on their expiration dates so that total was 115 mailed. So we sent a total of 317 newsletters at a cost of \$182.96 for printing and stamps. The cost for our Nov. '22 newsletter, for comparison, was \$310.73 for 338 sent. The mailed number should drop as we go forward.
- At the sale one member expressed an interest in seeing some financial information in our newsletters. I thought we might include a brief report in our next newsletter with our November sales \$ total and something like a 3 month total of Charissa’s reimbursement for purchases she made for our library’s benefit. Then a note that folks are welcome to our meetings for an in-depth treasurer account.

Treasurer’s Report: Nani was not present but provided her reports by email.

- Nani provided the October Monthly Financial Report and the Financial Status Report dated October 31, 2023. She provided explanations for postings to income and expenses. The reports were reviewed.

Old Business:

- Dave Burdick, former board member, reported to Jerry a conversation he had with Pam Smith, our contact on the Sierra Sands Unified School Board (SSUSD). He stated that we will not be evicted from our current location any time soon. Another storefront may be coming available in about a year and they may offer that to us. There was no discussion of rent or utilities but it would be a good opportunity.
- The Oz house: The owner’s pastor is using the garage for storage. Jerry explained the problems with using the Oz house.
- Movie Update: Julie will stay on this now that the actor’s strike is over.

New Business

- Book Sale Lessons Learned
 - Create a check-list for the sales
 - We need more young people
 - Do a better job getting set-up help
 - Close earlier on Sunday.
 - Use banners on fences in town again.
 - It costs \$40 to advertise on the Maturing Museum sign for a week.
- Peggy went to the WACOM luncheon where they distributed checks to local organizations. They gave FRBL \$731. Barbara will write a letter of appreciation for the Daily Independent.
- ANNUAL ELECTION - Candidates include Ann Blumenthal, Terri Middlemiss, Jack Davidson, John Freeman, and Nancy Saxton.
- Each candidate present introduced his/her self.

- Sandy Bradley made a motion that all continuing board members, Jerry Bradley, Carol Pearson, Jil Richards, and Nani Banks, be elected to the 2024 board. The vote was seconded and passed unanimously.
- Jerry asked if any of the candidates present would be interested in serving as secretary. None of them did. Jerry said that would be handled in January.
- All members of FRBL present voted by ballot for up to 4 names. New board members for 2024 include Terri Middlemiss, Jack Davidson, John Freeman, and Nancy Saxton.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:20pm. The next Board meeting will be **Wednesday, January 17th at 1:00pm** in the Library meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lupei, Secretary