Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

Board Meeting Minutes, 16 September 2026

Board members present: Jerry Bradley, Carol Pearson, Nani Banks, Julie Gervais, Deb Fields, John Freeman

Call to Order:

- Meeting of the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library (FRBL) Board was called to order at 1:03 pm
- Agenda approved
- August board meeting minutes approved

President's Report

- Store volunteer support
    - More needed! Advertise in Swap Sheet?

RCL Branch Supervisor's Report

New program updates
* ChompSaw (kid safe cardboard cutter) had 2 sessions in Sep, 2 in Oct scheduled, likely more in future months
* Casual Conversations for Russian so far, monthly 1st Thu evening; no instruction just conversation. Idea is to have people for same language to converse.
* American Mahjong 19 attendance. Learning session in Oct. Separate open play possible or available during Unplugged Game Time.

Infrastructure
* Side ramp still pending (possibly soon)

Lessons for sewing, crochet happening (get on list for contact from volunteer).

One Book Project
* Main title: We Need to Talk: How to Have Conversations That Matter by Celeste Headlee
* Active listening. Communication themes. Additional titles available (kids chapter books, picture book)
* Related programs (2 from both Toastmasters groups, one in Oct and Nov)

Master Mystery Productions show in Nov (dates given last month)
* Ticket sales at Red Rock Books and his website
* Intermission with snack and water sales??? Not sure if there will be time or interest from FRBL (but would have to be donated and not homemade)

New library card designs unveiled for Sep Library Card Sign Up Month (free for new sign up, $2 replacement)

Fundraiser ideas:
* Blind Date with a Book at Farmers Market or Fri night market
* Plant bingo (if someone has plants to donate for prizes)

* Online print on demand store of FRBL themed and general book/library themed items (does not cost to have the site, paid from profit set by sale price. Example: shirt costs $10, sell online for $15, company deposits $5)

Membership VP Report

- 8 renewals, 0 new membership
- November half off member sale— good incentive for renewals and new memberships (at the store)

Treasurer's Report

- Nani distributed and discussed the August 2026 Monthly reports and the YTD 2026 Financial report
- Audit of 2025 books completed in early September and we passed

Store Manager's Report

- Jerry distributed Book & More financials through August
- Donations coming in, going well with sales
- Volunteers
    - We have a steady group of regulars, have some interest from new volunteers and Julie is working coordinating hours; maybe consider an evening
    - Once the weather cools a work day will be planned to organize some book sections and generally clean
- Chamber Luncheon presentation in November
- Sales
    - October: Holliday planning, cooking, hobbies, etc.

Old Business

- Update on Signage:
    - Trailer still there, getting bleached out but still visible. Smaller banner located on Maturango fencing
    - Lighted sign: still not working, looking for an electrician
- New restaurant coming in may improve foot traffic or exposure
- Chamber After Hours Event
    - Estimated 40 Chamber attendees
    - Jerry gave a good presentation
    - Another positive step to getting the word out and also made some sales

New Business

- Assign nominating committee for vacant board positions: Julie and Deb
- Positions to fill in November: Two Member at Large positions; Store Manager in May
- Discussion touched on continuing the store with current fundraising stream—Jerry says planting the seed for future discussions
    - Noted the many hard worked hours put in by volunteers
    - Benefit to the community
- WACOM submitted

- Grant Writing: need to put effort into this resource: who? Nani suggested asking in quarterly newsletter if any members have experience with grant writing
- Future/additional fundraiser events
    - December - Movie event, February 2027 Italian themed dinner
- Branch Supervisor- solicit her needs

Action Items:

- Nominating committee come up with candidates
- John will talk with Swap Sheet

Adjournment and Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be 1:00 pm Wednesday October 21