Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

Board Meeting Minutes, 20 Aug 2026

Board members present: Jerry Bradley, Carol Pearson, Nani Banks, Julie Gervais, RBL Supervisor Charissa Wagner, Deb Fields

Call to Order:

- Meeting of the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library (FRBL) Board was called to order at 1:01 pm
- Agenda approved
- May board meeting minutes approved

President's Report

- Welcome back from Jerry after the summer break!
- Store volunteer support
    - Ideas were shared on expanding or offering flexibility with volunteer slots, offering some 2 hours shifts in hopes of encouraging more coverage
    - Discussed ways to ease the store managers shift work & how to enlist more volunteers
        - Ideas shared were BHS CSF/Key Club, local Rotary, Jay Nolan, word of mouth, sharing at the Chamber of Commerce After Hours event, ask patrons at check out (Books & More) if they're interested in becoming an FRBL member, and solicitation from Jerry to members via email memo

RCL Branch Supervisor's Report

- Lunch numbers were posted in the library newsletter; more patrons this year, a guest visitor was present each lunch, and local Leaders are Readers were present once a week; perhaps next year maybe more!
- Summer Reading Challenge "Plant a Seed, Read"
    - 344 finishers; 261 people read 8,222 books; 83 people listened to 2,104 hours of books;
    - 65 gift cards, 1 bowling parts, and 12 3d printed items were awarded as prizes
- Seed library
    - Now have 53 types of seeds
    - 10 new to be put out including the California poppy
- Library hosting a monthly plant and gardening chat
- Mobile seed library - add seeds to the prize for Bingo
- Infrastructure Improvements
    - Continued progress; upcoming is ADA compliant ramp at the side door (this will not require any library closures during construction)
- Zip books is over for this funding cycle (digital and print)
    - Kern County in the top 10 counties for request in the state, already applying for funds for the next cycle

Membership VP Report

- 24 renewals, 1 new membership
- Idea to provide members a 50% off for the entire month, which could also encourage new membership

Treasurer's Report

- Nani distributed and discussed the May, June, and July 2026 Monthly reports and the YTD 2026 Financial report
- Branch Supervisor was asked about any upcoming needs for the library or programs

Store Manager's Report

- Jerry distributed Book & More financials through July
- Discussed volunteers again and good support from Jay Nolan and members on repeat.
- Donations: could use newer book donations; recently received a bunch of awesome new thrillers!)
- Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon—confirmed for November
- November will also be Member's Month 50% off for FRBL Members
- Storage rental: maintain for now, review in 3 months

Old Business

- Update on Signage:
    - Banners: 1 large on trailer at library, 1 smaller on museum property fence, looking for third location
    - Lighted sign: it's up but not currently working; building owner will address in a couple of weeks
- Movie fundraiser was a success! Will keep eyes open for another event at Christmas
- Chamber After Hours event preparation: we're ready! Jerry has 7 slides prepared for a short presentation, event from 5:30-7, and guests will be able to make purchases

New Business

- Discussed expanded store hours; with explore further
- FRBL Board has member-at-large opening
- October meeting: the board with have a selection committee to nominate new officers
    - Word of mouth for interest in filling position, and for current members if your plans are to depart please let Jerry know sooner rather than later :)
- Discussed grant opportunities; Jerry is POC for Kern Family Health
    - Grants exist but haven't been actively pursued; at some point will be worthwhile to research
- Future fundraiser events:
    - The Maturango room has been reserved for next year's dinner which will feature Italian cuisine and more tables with additional seats for purchase
    - Master Mystery Productions writing a kids mystery
        - Nov 6 & 7, 13 & 14 at 7:30 pm at the library
        - Sales through FRBL website and possibly at the store
    - Charissa is researching details and requirements for a biannual Pizza Hut grant

Action Items:

- Jerry will write memo to members; Carol will distribute

Adjournment and Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be 1:00 pm Wednesday September 16