

FRBL Board Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2025

Meeting Call to Order

- Meeting of the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library (FRBL) Board was called to order at 1:01 PM.
- Agenda approved with no additions or deletions.
- Minutes from the last meeting approved.
- Board Members Jerry Bradley, Carol Pearson, Jil Richards, Vickie Schauf, John Freeman, and Denise Gorman were in attendance along with guest Kim Metcalf, , executive director of the College Foundation.

President's Report

- Welcomed new board members:
 - Vickie Schauf
 - Denise Gorman
- Introduced Kim Metcalf, who is interested in helping; especially with finding a new space.

Little Free Libraries Update

- Arrangements made to move Little Free Library from near DART thrift shop to a residential area.
 - Will be placed in the yard of the steward taking care of it.
 - Help lined up for relocation, which should happen in the next couple of weeks.

Library Director Report

- Library closed for winter recess; book drops were emptied during closure.
- New programs initiated:
 - Saturday of service for community projects.
 - Creative time and Flying Fingers for sign language users.
- Upcoming events:
 - Express enrollment event with Cerro Coso.
 - Art projects planned for March in children's area.
 - Basic planning for summer reading challenge with theme "level up at your library."

Membership Report

- Four renewals in December and January.
- Received a \$1,000 donation to the building fund.
 - Donor will be made an honorary member.
- Membership status:
 - Gaining members primarily during sales.
 - Some on automatic renewals through Zeffy.

Treasurer's Report

November Financials

- November Income: \$4,971.47

- November Expenses: \$1,018.12

December Financials

- December Income: \$354.46
- December Expenses: \$662.78
- Financial Overview:
 - Beginning cash on hand for 2024: \$143,046.74
 - Current total balance: \$162,332.98
 - Restricted asset (facility fund): \$2,851.00
 - Interest for the year: \$7,538.33
 - Total donations: \$9,521.55 (including approximately \$6,500 from Rotary Club)

Budget Planning

- Need to establish a budget for the year.
- Primary budget element: funding library projects.
- Charissa's input on projects:
 - New furniture for public areas.
 - Incorporating more adult crafts to attract more adults.
- Discussion on periodicals:
 - Nani had the renewal numbers.
 - List of periodicals sent out for review prior to the November meeting.

Budget Discussion

- Estimated about \$3,000 for periodicals as primary expense.
- Request for an increase in summer reading budget.
 - Last year spent less due to lunch grants covering performances.
 - Uncertainty about future lunch funding.

Membership Brochure Update

- Need to update the membership brochure.
 - Current version lacks updated information.
 - Suggestion to contact Barbara for original artwork.

3D Printer and Maker Space

- Interest in acquiring a new 3D printer.
 - Existing printer has been problematic.
 - Looking to enhance maker space equipment.
- Training challenges with current 3D printer usage.
 - Only one staff member knows how to use it.

- Decreased training sessions due to low usage.

Filament Supply

- Need for a 3D printer that accepts various filaments.
 - Current printer requires proprietary Dremel filament.
- Mention of Bambu Labs as a potential brand for quality and speed.

Budget Discussion

- Charissa will provide numbers to Nani for a tentative budget next year.
- Motion made by Nani to include furniture in the budget.
 - Motion seconded and approved unanimously.

Secretary Position

- Search committee is still looking for a secretary due to a vacancy on the board.
- Importance of the secretary position emphasized, even with AI assistance.

Book Storage Status

- John reported limited options for book storage.
 - Contacted Wayne Silva but did not receive a follow-up.
 - Awaiting response from Cody Criswell regarding meeting to discuss county buildings.
- Suggestion to locate county properties independently.
 - Explore properties labeled as county buildings.
 - Consider enlisting a realtor for assistance in identifying governmental properties.

Historical Society and Old Library Building Control

- Historical Society controls several county-owned buildings, including the old library.
- Quilt guild currently uses the old library space once a month.
- Need to meet with the quilt guild to understand their needs and explore alternative facilities.
- Discussion on potential space at churches for meetings and storage.
 - Concerns about selling books from church spaces.
- Suggestion to entice a realtor to help find low-cost space and address other questions.

Financial Overview

- Last year's surplus was approximately \$20,000.
 - \$6,500 of that will not recur.
 - Aiming for a sustainable income of about \$10,000 per year.
- Current income sources include:
 - Book sales
 - Interest
 - Movies

- Past events like yard sales and dinners.

Book Sales and Facilities

Potential Locations

- Discussion of various properties:
 - Old library considered but lacks sufficient storage.
 - A large vacant building on Balsam noted, but it may have structural issues.

Collaboration Opportunities

- Potential partnerships with local museums:
 - Offering books to help draw visitors.
 - Exploring space availability at the Maturango Museum or Weapons Museum.
- Idea to supply books to thrift shops:
 - Thrift shops could sell books and share revenue.
 - This could increase traffic for both the thrift shops and the book initiative.

Next Steps and Suggestions

- Suggestion to collaborate with John and Kim for insights on commercial real estate.
- Discussion about the potential for property donations.

Book Donation Policy

- Need to establish guidelines for accepted donations.
 - Items like magazines and certain media will not be accepted.
- Plan to inform donors about recycling unwanted items.
 - Difficulty in managing unwanted donations due to limited storage and volunteer help.

Motion and Vote

- Motion made to open the annex for book acceptance on designated days.
 - Motion seconded and unanimously approved.
- Discussion on alternative business models for the organization.
 - Noted that eliminating book sales would reduce community service and visibility.

Newsletter and Upcoming Events

- Need to draft an article for the newsletter about accepting books.
 - Inputs due by the end of the month.
- Discussion on planning for upcoming book sales.
 - Typically have spring and fall sales; next sale planned for late April or early May.

Artificial Intelligence App for Minutes

- Cost is \$100 per year for the meeting minutes app.
- Board authorized purchase by President.

Board Priorities

- Discussion on new ideas for fundraisers and spending.
 - Open to suggestions for finding space.
- Previous successful fundraiser mentioned.
 - Movie event raised approximately \$700.

Fundraising Ideas

- Proposal for a branded event each year.
 - Example: Dinner at the library using recipes from specific books.
- Importance of community involvement.
 - Targeting different age groups for participation.
- Concerns about hosting events at the library.
 - Issues with space and alcohol licensing.
- Suggestion to use alternative venues like the museum.
 - Potential for a program at the library followed by dinner elsewhere.
- Noted absence of younger community members at events.
 - Emphasis on culinary interests to attract this demographic.
- Previous fundraising success shared.
 - Example: Gala raised \$54,000 pre-COVID.

Action Items

- Carol to contact Barbara Lupei for artwork for the brochure
- Jil to edit the brochure
- Charissa to prepare a budget list and send it to Nani
 - Nani to draft budget for next meeting
- Jil to include information in the newsletter about the accepting books

Meeting Logistics

- Regular meetings scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month at 1:00 PM
- Meeting adjourned at 2:23 PM