



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
Board Meeting Minutes, 18 September 2024

Board members present: Jerry Bradley, Nani Banks, Jack Davidson, Carol Pearson, Nancy Saxton, Jil Richards

Library Supervisor: Charissa Wagner.

1. Call to Order:

- Jerry called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM.
- The agenda was approved without amendment.
- The minutes from the last meeting (21 Aug 2024) were approved.

2. President's Report:

- Jerry advised he would provide input on various agenda items as we discussed them.

3. Librarian's Report: Charissa reported:

- BOS approved temporary closure 10/1-7 for life-safety and critical maintenance improvements from infrastructure grant. During the temporary closure ONLY doing HVAC component, other work slated to happen in 2025. During closure, book drop will be emptied and most staff will be compensated through a combination of work from home hours, shifted schedules, using vacation or comp time, and helping Kern River Valley Branch Library pack for their extended closure.
- Library Card Sign Up Month is September and we are unveiling more new designs. Replacement cards are \$2 unless they are suffering from normal wear and tear, then replacement is free and if you use Libby, we might need to do a merge request for your old number and your new number.
- Color of the Month: Brown. The Color of the Month challenge is to read or listen to a book with a primarily brown cover.
- Desert Empire Fairgrounds has offered prizes for a reading and listening challenge. Free fair entry for ages 18 and under plus two unlimited ride wrist bands (one winner from 12 and under age group and one winner from 13-18 year old age group). Kids 12 and under will read or listen to 5 books and Teens 13-18 will read or listen to 5 hours. To enter for the unlimited ride wrist band drawing, reading logs must be submitted by 10/12. To get the free fair entry, reading logs must be submitted by 10/19.
- Kern County Sheriff Office is having a hiring event on 10/10 including administering the test. Also have community project coloring and essay contest for kids in 1st-5th grade. Prizes have been donated by Walmart, Ridgecrest Cinemas, and Tractor Supply. We were asked to make entries available to the homeschool community.
- October International Day of Older Persons is celebrated annually in Ridgecrest since 2018 thanks to the Cross Cultural Exchange Club and Cheryl McDonald Creative. Last year, we were asked to have a couple of movies and a book display. This year we are doing the same plus adding in more: Movie on 10/17 and 10/18 from

3:30-5:30 pm, Intergenerational Paper Card Making on 10/23 from 12-2 pm, Intergenerational Collaborative Art Project on 10/23 from 3:30-5:30, Intergenerational Bingo on 10/24 from 3:30-4:30.

- October mushroom growing classes with Annie of Hillside Mushrooms in Bakersfield. 10/12 Lions Mane 10/19 Reishi and Shiitake 11 am-12 pm. Check out the program brochure for when sign ups open.
- Ridge Writers Present Planet Mojave Authors on 10/19 from 12-1 pm. A new edition is available and the program will feature some of the authors who will read their works from the book.
- Low Key Adult Painting Session on 10/24 from 5-6:30 pm. Painting time with some flexibility and with guidance as needed. This is not a step by step program like we've had in the past.
- Bridging the Digital Divide grant ended in early September so no more appointments. Not sure who else can help seniors with device and other questions.
- One Book (which was included in the report for last month) kicks off in October and runs through November. The main theme is on adoption from other countries. Nicole Chung, the author of the book "All You Can Ever Know" will be speaking in person in Bakersfield. All branches are offering some related programming. Our branch will be having a book display in October and November, Preschool Storytime: Adoption 10/17 10:30-11:05 am, Preschool Storytime: One Book 11/21 10:30-11:05 am Book discussion RCBL 10/24 12:30-1:30 pm, Adoption Stories 11/15 4:45-5:45 pm, Crafts for Kids 11/20 12-2:30 pm. In October and November, we are having a Puzzle Piece Community Project where people can decorate a puzzle piece that represents them and we will put it together as the days go by into one large project.

4. Vice-President, Membership Report: Carol reported:

- Since our last meeting (21 Aug) we have had seven renewals. She will send 28 renewal notices.

5. Treasurer's Report: Nani Banks reported:

- For the month of August our income was \$979.00 and expenses were \$1,808.90.
- For the year (through August) income was \$16,501.92 and expenses were \$8,561.32.
- Ending balances as of 31 August are:

Cash/checking:	\$ 34,942.11
Savings:	\$ 475.11
<u>Certificate/Edward Jones:</u>	<u>\$ 115,570.12</u>
Total:	\$ 150,987.34

- Nani pointed out that income for the year exceeded the amount budgeted and that expenditures to date were significantly less than the amount budgeted.
- Some discussion was had concerning including a notice in the newsletter advising members of how to get a portion of their bill at the Pizza Factory donated to FRLB

6. Old Business:

a. Book Storage Status

- i. Jerry has not heard from the school district. It was determined not to initiate follow-up with them at this time.

ii. Jil had heard a rumor that the USO Heritage Society had voted not to kick out the Quilters Guild. Some discussion followed during which Jerry pointed out that the County has control of the building, not the Historical Society. Issue is still “in flux.”

b. Book Disposition Status:

b.i. Plan Fall Book Sale

- Jil advised that as result of much sorting effort a lot of bargain (\$0.25) books were identified that could sell and several boxes of books that were not likely to sell were recycled. In response to an inquiry regarding how the recycling was done Jil advised the nearby recycled bins were used.
- Jil stated that we will not be selling a “bag of books” at this sale.
- Most of the Military History books have been reviewed and priced (most @\$1.00)
- There are three or four boxes of very nice craft books, most of which have been priced. It is anticipated that they will sell well and will be placed in a conspicuous area during the sale.
- We have provided Ridgewriters with some books about our local area and indigenous people. In turn, they will hand out our \$1-off bookmarks advertising the Fall Book Sale at their Petroglyph Festival booth. For Future reference, they informed Jil that they do not pay for their “non-profit” booth at the Festival.
- Jil proposed eliminating the benefit to members of accessing the sale an hour earlier than the general public but they will be provided a coupon for \$3.00 off their purchase. Anyone signing up that day will also be provided a discount coupon. After some discussion it was agreed to try Jil's proposal.
- Jerry asked if there was a checklist for what needed to be done in preparation for the sale, e.g. list of volunteers, fencing.... Apparently there currently is no such list but Jerry will see about obtaining fencing and Jil will work on getting volunteers.

b.ii How and When to Accept Book Donations From the Public

- Jerry asked, given that our storage situation remains unchanged, do we want to resume receiving books from the public as our inventory is “getting rather stale”? Nani pointed out it was part of our charter to do so. In response to a question about Blue Elephant, it was pointed out that Blue Elephant sales would have a negligible impact on our inventory. Jil advised she had no problem starting to accept books from the public but would like to wait until next year. Nancy suggested we assess the situation after the book sale. Charissa pointed out that, regardless of when we started accepting books, there would be a lot of individuals wanting to donate once we did. Although

we will accept small amounts of “good” books before the sale, it was agreed to follow Nancy's suggestion.

c. Little Free Libraries

- The Little Free Library installed at Pearson Park was vandalized but Nancy's son repaired it. At Nancy's behest a Parks Maintenance individual adjusted a sprinkler to minimize water hitting the library.

d. Fund Raisers

- The Totally Tables event was attended by about 100 people. FRLB will be the sole beneficiary of the sales and Jerry estimates we will receive approximately \$6,500. Jerry passed around a card for the Board members to sign thanking the Rotary Club for selecting us as the beneficiary of this year's event.

7. New Business

a. Define new Board Positions to be filled at November meeting for nominating committee.

- Jerry reminded the Board that he had appointed Carol and Jack to be the nominating officials this year. He also advised that there will be at least two Board vacancies coming this year: Nancy and Jack will not be returning as members. He requested if anyone knew of any potential candidates to let Jack or Carol know.

b. Discuss online sales by book dealers

- Jil screens books to determine which seller should be given the opportunity to sell which books. Essentially, higher dollar value books will go to Blue Elephant (Frank Johns) to sell on consignment on Amazon. Lower value books and sports related books will go to Robert Shaw to sell on E-Bay. Jil will contact both sellers to confirm with them how we plan on operating with them.
- **Blue Elephant Contract** After some discussion it was determined that we will not enter into a formal written agreement (contract) with Blue Elephant but will sell books to Frank Johns and Robert Shaw at reduced prices. Jil is authorized to coordinate books and prices with them. All online sales directly for the Friends will be sold on a volunteer basis with no compensation to the seller. Factors leading to the decision not to enter a formal agreement with Blue Elephant included the amount of effort required vs. expected return, need for legal counsel and potential liabilities.

c. Establish Budget for Next Year: Subject tabled for next meeting

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 PM. The next Board meeting will be **Wednesday, 16 October 2024 at 1:00 PM** in the library meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Davidson, Acting Secretary