



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
Board Meeting Minutes, October 18, 2023

Board members present: Jerry Bradley, Carol Pearson, Jil Richards, Nani Banks, Barbara Bane, Julie Gervais, and Barbara Lupei. **Library Supervisor:** Charissa Wagner.

Jerry called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.
The agenda was approved.
The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

President's Report: Jerry donated his time to Charissa.

Librarian's Report: Charissa reported

- Thank-A-Vet Art Card Project supplies are available for making cards or coloring pictures that will be distributed to local veterans. Packets can be assembled for families, classrooms, or groups who would like to participate.
- Sign-ups for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library through the partnership of the Kern Literacy Council and Kern County Library have already reached 2,791 new members. The Kern Literacy Council has been fundraising for Kern County residents to receive the books as funding allows.
- There were 66 finishers for the Ridgecrest Branch who completed the Beanstack Back to School Reading Challenge. Kids were awarded Panda Express Cub meal gift certificates. Teen and adult finishers were entered into a drawing for a diamond painting or paint by numbers kit. We drew 3 names.
- Mission Heroes NARCAN partnership for small businesses. High Desert Training Services will provide the training and Ridgecrest Branch Library will provide the NARCAN.
- A world of cutting-edge physics research with easy access to Physical Review Journals, is now available through the American Physical Society (APS) database. This new database is listed under Online Resources and requires the user to be using a public computer in the library branch or be connected to the library wi-fi, either inside or outside the library.
- Several Kern County Library Branches will see expanding hours in the 2023/2024 budget with the help of Measure K funding including Boron, Buttonwillow, Frazier Park, Kern River Valley, Lamont, Mojave, Rathbun and Rosamond. These changes will happen gradually as there will be new staff to hire and train to accommodate the expanded days and hours.
- Zip Books is BACK!!! For those of you who have used Zip Books before, the wait is over! This is a way to have a community driven collection, although not all Zip Book requests will be added to the Kern County Library collection. Go to <https://kerncountylibrary.org/zipbooks/> for more info and to request a Zip Book.
- Charissa is planning more adult activities to see what the response is. Starting in November, there will be a monthly Adult Coloring+Warm Drinks (could happen more often if the interest/demand exists) that will likely take place on Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Other ideas include: movie and chat, adult craft, bring your own craft, and informative workshops. Suggestions would be welcome and considered.
- Closed days coming up include
 - November
 - Friday the 10th - Veterans Day; open on Saturday the 11th
 - December
 - Friday the 1st - All Staff Training Day in Bakersfield
 - Friday the 22nd through Monday January 1st - Winter Recess

Vice-President, Membership Report: Carol reported

- There have been two renewals and one new member since the last meeting.
- She has 246 email members that she can notify of the November sale. If their expiration date is prior to 2023 she will not plan to send them an email newsletter because she has sent them notices via email of their need to renew. That leaves 128 members without email addresses. At the last meeting she proposed sending printed newsletters to 80 members with no email. She would like to expand that to 97 who have 2023 or later expiration dates because she has not sent reminders to those whose membership expired earlier this year. She will need to buy stamps for that and at least some future mailings. Postage prices are likely to rise another two cents from the current 66 cents soon. The board encouraged her to buy whatever she needs and submit a receipt to Nani.

Treasurer's Report: Nani reported

- Nani provided the September Monthly Financial Report and the Financial Status Report dated September 2023. She explained postings to income and expenses. Jerry pointed out that our projected income is still \$5K short of the projected budget.

Finalize Book Sale Plans: Jil reported

- Jil stated that a cooler is needed for water bottles for volunteers. Julie offered to provide that. Jerry said he had some water bottles but maybe not enough.
- Bookcases and book carts are also needed.
- Peter Wiley is not available for setting up the fence Saturday afternoon, but he can deliver it to Bob ahead of time. Jerry will help pick it up on Friday with Barbara Bane and they will put it inside the annex.
- Barb will be able to hand out fliers or put them on windshields when she is directing traffic near the Maturango Museum on the weekend. Jerry can also offer them during the Open Studio Tour.

Old Business:

- Book Storage Status: Jil reported that it appears that the work on the bus charging station is completed.
- The Oz house: No new updates
- Nominating Committee: They have one possible recruit. They need to contact a few more people.
- Movie Update: Fundraising movies are an option on an ongoing basis. Julie offered to check on the January/February timeframe to see what movies are available. She was advised to try for a PG rating for the largest possible crowd.

New Business

- Fund Raising Options: Charissa suggested purchasing multi-packs of crafts from Oriental Trading or a similar company that members could assemble and we could sell. We could promote on Facebook, sell through Zeffy, and package for pick up at the Library, or set up a table at the library during set hours to accept cash/check. Sales tax was a concern but we wondered if that could be avoided if the original purchase was donated by a member. This was tabled until the next meeting.
- The WACOM luncheon for distributing grants is November 14th. Peggy will be able to attend on behalf of FRBL. We need to remember to thank WACOM with a letter to the editor in the Daily Independent.
- Jil mentioned that the Ridge Writers asked if the FRBL might consider planning a bus trip to the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books held in April at USC each year. We brought her up to

date with the history of those trips and the fact that there is not a tour bus working in Ridgecrest any longer.

- Jil also announced that FRBL provided books to an Altrusa event held on Saturday, October 21st at Upjohn Park. Children were invited to choose a book to read to a mini pony and take the book home.
- Nani announced that she would be out next month for surgery but will send her financial reports by email to the board members.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:22pm. The next Board meeting will be **Wednesday, November 15th at 1:00pm** in the Library meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lupei, Secretary