



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
Board Meeting Minutes, February 15, 2023

Board members present: Jerry Bradley, Carol Pearson, Peggy Johnson, Barbara Bane, Jil Richards, Nani Banks, Julie Gervais, and Barbara Lupei. **Library Administrator:** Charissa Wagner. **Guest:** Terri Middlemiss.

Jerry called the meeting to order at 10:02.
The agenda was approved without modifications.
The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

President's Report: Jerry deferred his comments until later in the meeting.

Librarian's Report: Charissa reported

- From Dec. 1-Jan. 31, The Kern County Library participated in the Winter Reading Challenge "All the Feels," sponsored by Beanstack. The library challenged our community to read and log at least 5 books during the challenge. This was the first time the library participated in this program. Charissa set a goal of 60 finishers, adults and children, and was pleased to have 88. They will hope for even more next year.
- She announced the monthly event: "GBLA @the Library FRI. FEB 17 | 11:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M. The Advancing Health and Racial Equity Through Legal Strategies Project provides education on GBLA's services and collects feedback on any issues people have with access to health care, education, public benefits, and other civil issues." The first hour will consist of a lecture about the services they provide in Bakersfield and the rest of the time is for discussion of local problems and concerns. They are not doing intake this year. (GBLA = Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance)
- FREE Narcan training by High Desert Training Services will be offered from 11am to 12pm on Saturday, February 25th. They will present info about NARCAN and answer questions. Anyone can fill out a short form to get a FREE box of NARCAN for their first-aid kit. The presentation will take about 20 minutes so there will be plenty of time for questions. Charissa added that the Kern County Library applied for and received their own grant so they can provide Narcan in a more timely manner to the branches.
- The library is still offering State Park passes for check-out. These passes cover day use and parking only.
- Tax forms are available.
- Intake forms for tax help from the Ridgecrest Regional Hospital Senior Services Program are available in the library. An application must be submitted before an appointment can be made.
- She just put in the magazine subscription renewals so they will not begin arriving until May.
- In-N-Out Cover to Cover Club Reading Challenge will be from 3/4-4/15. Children ages 4-12 can get a free hamburger, cheeseburger, or grilled cheese for every 5 books read or listened to, up to 3 per child. Kern County Library participates in this program annually.
- Early Childhood Council of Kern, Kern Literacy Council, First Five Kern, & Kern Early Stars are partnering with some Kern County Library branches to offer a Read Across America book giveaway. This will primarily be done through our already established Preschool Storytime but Charissa will have a second storytime on Saturday as a kickoff to the In-N-Out Cover to Cover Club Reading Challenge and will be able to give out any remaining books.
- She would like the Summer Reading Challenge 2023, "Find Your Voice" to feature local performers such as singers, musicians, artists, writers, actors, etc. She is also planning to send out a donor letter to local businesses to promote partnership with the community by re-

questing prizes and/or financial support. She would like to be able to offer prizes for bonus finishers, those who finish a second list of books during the SRC.

Vice-President, Membership Report: Carol reported

- 1 new member and 5 renewals.

Treasurer's Report:

- Nani distributed the January Financial Report and the Proposed Budget for 2023 along with a comparison of the proposed budgets of 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Proposed Budget 2023:

- Charissa reported that there is a balance of about \$8,000 in the KCL Ridgecrest Branch Trust Account (Trust Account).
- Jerry pointed out that proposed expenses, \$40,075 surpass proposed income of \$17,184 and he would suggest that Charissa use the \$8,000 in the Trust Account as much as possible for the Summer Reading Challenge (SRC) expenses and for stipend expenses. It was suggested to Nani that \$7,000 be removed from the SRC expenses and \$6,000 be removed from the equipment/furniture expenses.
- The expenses for Summer Reading and for Stipend appear larger than usual this year because reimbursements were made to Charissa for expenditures in previous years. She has agreed to seek reimbursement in a timely manner starting this year so checks can clear before the end of the year.
- The vote to approve the budget was pushed to the next meeting.

Old Business:

- **Web Page:** People can now join or renew their memberships online with a credit card using our Square account. All meeting minutes except Zoom recordings are now posted on the site along with most newsletters. The option exists to sell collectible books on the site as well.
- Book Storage Status:** Our current book storage situation remains temporary though the timeline remains unknown. Jil reported on the **approximate** number of boxes of books in several categories

660 boxes already in a sale (sorted fic/nonfic)
-120 sent to Beale
900 unsorted boxes
400 sorted boxes + more on shelves
95 boxes collectibles (some stored at Pat Boyd's house)

Total: 1935

- Jil reminded us that she works there every Wednesday from 1 to 3pm. with about seven people on that team. However, she needs more help. Last Wednesday she was the only one there. Jerry volunteered to pick up boxes of records and take them to Moe's Music as a donation. There are 5 to 10 boxes of unsorted LPs.
- Jerry stated that the owner of the Oz House is still very interested in having us use that space. He suggested using the garage and putting tables out for weekend sales of higher end books.
- There was no progress to report on Teacher/Home School gifts of books, online sales, or consignment sales.
- The trip to the Pasadena Antique Book Fair produced the following results: One set was a knock off and not valuable. One book was valued at \$1,000 and the manager of the fair held it to put in an auction for us. One sci-fi book he has to look into further as he was not familiar with it at all. He held onto this book as well. Donna Rosenthal has his contact information.
- Little Free Libraries - Jerry has replaced the plexiglass windows in the LFLs on Gold Canyon and at Upjohn Park with windows made of polycarbonate. He said this material is more expensive but will be harder to break and hopefully last longer.

- The furniture discussion came back up with the suggestion of an appeal for help via the newsletter or email. The option of recovering the current furniture was suggested as a money saving option.

New Business

- CalNonProfits - is an advocacy network with 10,000 member organizations. The fee for FRBL to join would be \$75. They offer insurance to members.
***Task** - Barbara will get an insurance quote.
- Member Dues - Jerry shared information on the annual dues of 11 different organizations in our area and the value members get for those fees. A discussion followed on whether FRBL membership fees should be raised, and to what level. We discussed the cost of printing and mailing the quarterly newsletter, and our fees just cover that expense. The benefit from our organization is to the community more than to the members. Some board members were staunchly against the change so the discussion was tabled.
- Future Fundraising Options - Jerry wants to see another bag sale in the Spring (April) and does not feel that the boxes even need to be sorted. The last bag sale was a big success and helped to reduce inventory. Jil felt she could not be ready for a big sale by April and wants to shoot for May with books sorted and selling at regular prices. Jerry felt that both options could be accomplished. He would plan to move forward with a bag sale using the 660 boxes that have been out before to get rid of books, and Jil can move forward with a regular sale for May.
- Combined Federal Campaign - Barbara B. needs more info to fill out the application for CFC. Barbara L. will download the incorporation filing from the CA Secretary of State and send a copy to her.
***Task** - Jerry assigned Nani and Barbara L. to update the Standing Rules to match the current Bylaws.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:06pm. The next Board meeting will be **Wednesday, March 15th** at 10:00am in the Library meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lupei, Secretary

Feb-23

Ridgecrest Non Profit Organizations Annual Dues

Name	Initial Fee	Individual	Family	Notes
Toastmasters	\$ 20.00	\$ 90.00		
Chamber of Commerce		\$ 125.00		Minimum Membership
Chamber Music Society		\$ 30.00	\$ 50.00	
California Rock Art Foundation		\$ 15.00		Minimum Membership
China Lake Museum Foundation		\$ 35.00	\$ 65.00	Senior Discount
Kiwanis Club	Waived	\$ 216.00	\$ 336.00	
Maturango Museum		\$ 55.00	\$ 65.00	Senior Discount
Tortoise Club		\$ 25.00	\$ 35.00	
CLOTA		\$ 15.00	\$ 25.00	
AAUW		\$ 67.00		
Historical Society		\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	
Average		\$ 64.36	\$ 87.29	