

FRBL Board Meeting Minutes October 15, 2025

Meeting Call to Order

- Meeting of the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library (FRBL) Board was called to order at 1:03 PM.
- Agenda approved with no additions or deletions.
- Minutes from the last meeting approved.
- Board Members Jerry Bradley, Nani Banks, Carol Pearson, Vickie Schauf, Julie Gervais, Jil Richards, and Kim Metcalf were in attendance along with Library Branch Supervisor Charissa Wagner and guest Mary Lundstrom.

President's Report

Board Vacancies

- Need a secretary.
- Vicki will not be on the board next year, creating another vacancy.
 - She will continue to work at the store and sell books online.

Selling Books Online

- Discussed selling books online, referencing a past volunteer, John Anderson, who did this.
- Currently have two books valued at \$700 each and a collection of signed Playboys valued between \$700 and \$1000.
- Looking into reactivating an Amazon account or starting a new one.
 - Nani and Jerry are looking into options for a credit card, but they don't have one yet.
 - Starting a new account might be best.
- Vicki was presented with a golden reading shaman for her service on the board.

Library Branch Supervisor's report

- Press release went out regarding the closure of the library for renovation.
- Express services (walk-up) will be available Wednesday through Saturday from 11:30 to 3:30.
- Curbside services (call ahead) will be offered Wednesday through Friday from 11:30 to 6.
- Some programs will be moved off-site to the Kerr McGee Center and possibly the county building.
 - Unsure about scheduling for the county building.
- Facebook page will be the best way to stay updated on closure dates and services.
 - Plastic Wrap Project
 - People can still contribute to the plastic wrap project during express/curbside times.
 - The project involves collecting plastic to create benches.
 - Organizations collect 1000 pounds of plastic.
 - The organization can then order a bench to place wherever they want.

Upcoming Activities

- Information for the International Day of Older Persons.
 - Discounts at local restaurants this month.
 - Card making this afternoon.
 - Workshop with Alta One on the basics of trusts.
- Maturango Museum program on first peoples.
 - Choctaw tribe program with dances and corn grinding.
 - Community culture share with Cerro Coso Latinos Unidos Club presenting about Puerto Rico.

Desert Empire Fair donated wristbands and free entry tickets for kids who read.

- Halloween activities coming up.
- Reading Dragons program is returning.

Membership VP Report

- Six membership renewals, including one for \$100.
- Plan to get FRBL letterhead stock printed for thank you letter use.

Treasurer's Report - September

- Library bookshelf brought in \$55.81.
- Bookstore brought in \$1363.65 (without donations/memberships).
- Memberships: Non-store - 115, Store - 20.
- Donations: Non-store - \$50, Store - \$207.
- Interest from Alta One: \$73.26.
- Total: \$1884.72.

- Expenses: \$36.26 for new checks,
 - Book facility electrical (Southern California Edison) -\$68.34, Rent - \$1375.
 - Started year with \$162,332.98, ended September with \$203,247.24.
 - Outstanding liabilities of \$1700 (October rent) + \$200 for librarian expenses.

Bookstore Pricing

- Kathy is keeping the same prices for the bookshelf in the library, not going to store prices.

Store Manager Report

- Need more volunteers.
- Reminder sent out for people to sign up for times.

Sea Van Discussion with Tim Garrison from Kern County General Services

- Background: Friends used to have free space donated by the school district.
 - Earthquake led to moves to sea vans and then the old Sears store.
 - Access to the Sears store is limited due to earthquake damage.

- Currently renting a storefront.
- Aiming to operate where donations equal sales to avoid needing storage.
- ~500 boxes of books in the annex.
- Could operate without storage, but a storage space is nice to have.
- Considering putting a Sea van in the parking lot.
- Need is indefinite.
- Possibility of school district finding space, but timing is uncertain.
- Ideal situation: someone donates a building.
- Budget for transition is negative.
- Would use a Sea van if someone donated it.
- Bertrand had loaned Sea van in the past.

Book Situation and Collectibles

- John Freeman suggested a parking lot sale to get rid of older books.
- Goal: Get rid of extra books and show people where the bookstore is.
- There are ~100 boxes of potentially collectible books.
- Some boxes are wet.

County Position on Sea van

- If the Friends acquire a Sea van, they can put it on county land.
- Must meet California code (anchored).
- Temporary, not permanent.
- Size doesn't matter.

Mobile Office Space

- Asked for space from the county, city, and public for the last three years and "basically have gotten nothing."
- Suggestion to ask Bertrand's wife about a discounted rental rate on an improved Sea van with their name on it.
 - Action item to explore this option.
- A mobile or double wide would be acceptable, but would require permitting and utilities.
 - "Whatever you come up with, present it. Okay, great. And we'll try to make it work."
- Suggestion to look into Quinn's carports or sheds on Kern Road.

Expanded Hours

- Discussed the possibility of expanded hours for Fridays and Saturdays.
- Concerns about low traffic in the area, except during exercise classes.
- Suggestion to consider special events or sales instead of expanded hours.

Advertising and Outreach

- Movie ad should be out soon.
 - Six-month ad for \$100.
- Suggestion to use Just Serve, a website monitored by members of the LDS Church, to find volunteers.
 - Used them before for book sales.
- Discussed radio ads and Facebook ads.
 - Facebook ads can reach a larger audience for a smaller amount of money.
- There is now a Facebook page for "books and more".
- Contact Nick Rogers at "On the Town" for advertising.
- Kim suggested an after-hours with the Chamber of Commerce.

Special Events

Book Sale

- John has a truck and trailer and is willing to haul books.
 - He doesn't know how many books there are.
- The ones that don't sell have to be hauled back.
- It's a lot of work to load, unload, and reload the books.
- A one-day sale is preferable.

Prioritizing Sales Events

- The highest priority should be a members-only sale.
 - The grand openings had the highest sales.
- The next priority should be book signings, art shows, and other special events.
- Two objectives: direct sales and getting the word out.
- Advertise that people can become members for \$5.

Friday Night Market Planning

- Sandy and Jerry will do the early setup.
- Setup is Thursday from 5 to 7.
- On Friday, the gate closes at 4:30, so arrive by 4:15.
- Shifts are 4:15 to 6:30 and 6:30 to 9, plus tear down.
- There will be a table runner and handouts with a free book offer.
- There is a table sign.

- Balloons might be a good visual addition.

Bring membership forms.

- Expect hundreds of people at the market.
- The same night as the Trunk or Treat event.
- There is a sign with a QR code.

Selling at the Friday Night Market

- Consider selling items at the market.
- Need the square for taking payments.
- Chris suggested having items on display.
- The space is 10x10.
- Consider selling memberships and gift certificates.
- The probability of bringing the right book for the right person is low.
- Don't want to haul hundreds of pounds of books.
- Consider a theme or special books.
 - Sprayed edges or newer books.
 - Grab bags.
 - Horror theme.
- Showcase puzzles, games, or cards.
- Use an iPad to loop through slides of the store.
- There are acrylic stands for signs.

Volunteers for Friday Night Market

- Need help with the second shift and tear down (6:30 to 9).

Bylaws and Standing Rules

- Need a motion to change the bylaws and standing rules.
- The change eliminates the position of VP for book sales and replaces it with VP for sales.
- Sales have expanded beyond books.
- The semi-annual book sale is no longer happening.
- The changes were marked in red in the document.
- A motion was made and seconded to make the change.
- The motion passed.
- The adjusted standing rules will be voted on at the next meeting.

Special Events

- Need someone for the members-only sale.
- Jerry volunteered to work on it.

Meeting Location

- Need a new place to have the meeting in November.
- The current building will not be available.
- There is no December meeting.
- Figure out January at a later date.

November Meeting Location

- Vicki suggested the Pizza Factory as a location for the November meeting.
 - A positive aspect is that buying lunch there would benefit the Friends, with a percentage of the sale price going back to them.
 - A downside is that it can be noisy, and there's no guarantee of getting the back room.
- Other options for the meeting location:
 - The store
 - The conference room next door to the store
 - The Welcome Center
 - The Maturango Museum
 - Desert Valley Credit Union

Decision on Location

- Charissa will try to book the conference room next door to the store.
 - If that doesn't work, we will consider other options.

Action Items

- Discuss getting a C van or similar structure and get back to Tim Garrison.
- Vicki to work on credit card access for online sales.
- Jewelry box needed for donated jewelry.

Meeting was adjourned.