

Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

Board Meeting Minutes, 21 May 2026

Board members present: Jerry Bradley, Carol Pearson, Nani Banks, Julie Gervais, RBL Supervisor Charissa Wagner, John Freeman, Kim Metcalfe, Deb Fields

Call to Order:

- Meeting of the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library (FRBL) Board was called to order at 1:00 pm
- Agenda approved
- April board meeting minutes approved

President's Report

- Welcome from Jerry — Sandy made cookies yum!
- Reminder that this is the last meeting until August
- Jerry thanked Deb and Julie and everyone who contributed to making the Volunteer Appreciation potluck lunch a hit

RCL Branch Supervisor's Report

- Infrastructure Improvements
 - Locks have been changed
- Other library improvements coming
 - Ramp work to remain ADA compliant post infrastructure improvements— this work will begin after the summer
 - Waiting on carpet installation
- Programs
 - Adult:
 - Ridgecrest Recommends reading challenge
 - Readers still signing up
 - 50 participants
 - 1 reader finished all 10 books; can be applied to the Summer Reading Challenge
 - Life After Loss grief support
 - All types of grief (job loss, relationship, identity) — River Sage Revival
 - Bubble Qigong evening class has started — it's free; instructor may move to a location that will allow her to charge to see if people would be more likely to show up
 - Similar to Tai Chi but simple sequence of short repetitive movements
 - Thursdays in June and July, 5:15-6:00
 - Youth:

- In N Out Challenge — 168 finishers, 8% increase from 2025
- Hired 2 workers for summer employment to assist with lunch and summer programming
- o Unveiled the Seed Library
 - Working on getting more seed packets, currently have 14 plant options to choose from
 - Library is accepting donated seeds, keeping it lively with some “Mystery Seed” packets
 - Maybe host a produce exchange later in the season dependent on interest
- o A local Eagle Scout has provided the library with a flag retirement box , community can drop flags and Boy Scout troop will periodically collect to properly retire the flags
- o Summer Reading Challenge
 - Officially starts June 2 (same day that Lunch at the library begins)
 - Summer Reading Challenge asks all ages to read or listen to 10 books or for 10 hours to be a finisher and get a finisher bag and free book choice. If challenger continues reading or listening they can enter into bonus finisher drawings for gift cards and other prizes.
- o Summer Lunch Program
 - Free lunches provided M-F June 2-July 10 (no lunch June 19 or July 3)
 - There will be lunch visitors and guest readers along with someone and returning vendors (including Magic of Josiah, RC Chief of Police, Chamber of Commerce and RC City Council members
- o Summer Programming Sponsors
 - Friends of the Kern County Libraries - providing finisher books for Adults in reading challenge
 - Lunch at the Library performances via grant (big performance each week for all nine weeks)
 - FRBL - vendors and programming
 - Ridge Writers
 - Road Runner Ridge Community Foundation - providing \$600 in gift cards towards the Summer Reading Challenge
 - Pizza Factory, Sierra Lanes
 - May ask Wendy’s and other local businesses for donations

Membership VP Report

- 8 renewals; release of quarterly newsletter should result in more renewals
- Carol brought in her My Life Memories book in fully published hardback format to share—great photos and some awesome Carol history!

Treasurer’s Report

- Nani distributed and discussed the April 2026 Monthly report and the YTD 2026 Financial report
- Nani is going to be unavailable for June; Carol will assist

Store Manager's Report

- Julie distributed and discussed Books & More handout with sales earnings July 2025-May 16 2026
 - April and May included the sale of LEGO collectibles
- Volunteer opportunities at the Books and More store are now advertised on JustServe.com
- Chamber of Commerce
 - Books and More will host a Chamber After Hours Event August 20 5:30 - 7:00pm
 - Businesses typically provide light refreshments; Kim will get an ABC license so we can serve light chilled wine or other, maybe light appetizers. Deb will assist as well as support from other members.
 - Discussed Chamber monthly luncheon @ USO building
 - 30 minute presentation (Julie & Jerry), shooting for August 11
 - Will include ad/flyer to go out with "This week at the Chamber", each ad runs for two weeks then needs to be updated
 - We can tag Chamber in social media posts for more exposure to the community
 - Electronic sign at China Lake and Bowman
 - Can use for community events, must submit an application
 - First come first served (space for 8 community events plus 8 paid spots)
- One Year Anniversary
 - Considering a Roll Back sale
 - Lower prices for Mass Market and Trade paperbacks
 - Books by the pound?
- Keep an eye out for chairs while out thrifting; cashier chairs are a little rickety
- Need volunteers to look through the collectibles
- Signup Genius annual renewal coming up, \$100
- Nani getting a 6 foot ladder for store
- Store will be closed July 4

Old Business

- Online Book Sales
 - 2 books sold - 1 on Amazon 1 on Abe
 - 20 books listed on Abe
 - Amazon want too severe of a price cut on a high value collectible so will no longer list there
 - Vicki S is the lead for listing; Deb and Jerry will connect with her to assist
- Movie Fundraiser

- o June 17, Toy Story 5 @ 9:00 am (\$5/ticket)
- o 173 tickets available; 5 sold so far, expect more sales closer to date (100 tickets at the store, 73 online) Advertised on Facebook, Instagram, quarterly newsletter, and the website
- o Charissa will post to Mom's group
- o Ticket sales via store and Zeffy (website and QR code)

New Business

- Renew store lease— discussed details of the new lease contract, pros outweighed the cons of having the physical store, could use backup to manager
John motioned to vote on renewing the lease, Nani seconded, lease renewal was unanimously approved
- Store signage
 - o Jerry priced banners and signs for advertising on chain links and trailer parked around town (with permissions), along with the sign for over the store doors, set \$700 total. Nani motioned to approve spending the \$700, John seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously
- 2026 Fundraiser Options
 - o Possible Grants
 - Kern River Valley Health Care
 - Grant is due by the end of the year (Kim and Jerry are waiting to hear more on this)
 - Jerry looking at other grant opportunities, perhaps American Library Association but may require a membership
 - Always looking for volunteers who may be interested in grant writing and searching for grants
 - o Discussed asking more local businesses /organizations (maybe contractors?) to donate or sponsor
 - o Perhaps adding a "Business Membership" level to the Friends membership
 - o Kim has the contact information of a another local recently published writer, Terry Morrison, who may be interested in an event (signing, reading etc.)

Action Items:

- Julie will contact Chamber with dates for lunch at the USO presentation and After Hours event (both for August)
- Kim will get ABC license
- Julie, Kim, Jerry, Deb - Connect for planning After Hours event refreshments etc

Adjournment and Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be 1:00 pm Wednesday August 19.