

Minutes of Meeting – FRBL Wednesday April 17, 2024

The board members present were: Jerry Bradley, Jil Richards, Carol Pearson, Nani Banks, Jack Davidson, John Freeman, and Nancy Saxton. Also present, Charissa Wagner, library branch supervisor, and guest member Sandy Bradley taking minutes.

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm. The agenda was approved by consensus. The minutes of the previous meeting (March 20, 2024) were approved by email consensus.

The president reported that Sandy Bradley will take minutes at the meeting since no new secretary had been found. He reported that he and Sandy made several attempts to find someone to be the secretary, but no one had agreed. He also mentioned that he and Sandy will be out of town and will miss the May meeting. Carol Pearson will chair that meeting. Sandy asked that everyone try to think of someone who might be a good secretary for the group and she would be willing to contact them.

Charissa Wagner reported that

1. Planning for the Summer Reading program was underway. The goal is for each participant to read or listen to either 10 books or 10 hours. Some prizes have been obtained, including some “big ticket” items like scooters and a basketball hoop but looking for gift certificates (\$10 value) if anyone has connections with organizations that might be interested in donating (will send thank you letter for tax deductions in August). Will be purchasing some gift certificates from Maturango Museum as partial payment for summer programs (paying for one program and purchasing gift certificates as prizes for the other program).
2. Meanwhile, the monthly reading challenge continues for adults and children for minutes. Jil asked if she could report minutes instead of a list and Charissa said, either was acceptable. Staff is willing to log for people if they report it instead of having people report it on Beanstack themselves.
3. The color of the month book challenge is continuing. April’s color is red and there is a book display with some options.
4. The In-and-Out challenge officially ended 4/13, but the reward cards are still available. No total yet as they await the final numbers but some classes at Immanuel Christian School participated, so expecting higher total than before.
5. The library is a participant to help collect plastic for the Lions Club. Clean plastic wrap and bags can be brought in and put in the bin inside the library. When 1,000

pounds of plastic are collected, the community will be able to get a new bench for the pool. The program will continue through mid February of 2025.

6. County Supervisor, Philip Peters, reported that Ridgecrest had received several infrastructure grants. Ridgecrest Library – \$1,058,522 Building Forward Grant Program. Proposed improvements include replacement of door and window glass, installation of a security system, lighting and HVAC updates, and concrete repair. Original dates were given for Fall 2024 but may have moved to April 2025 to November 2025.

7. The library was approved to receive a new sign to replace the one that is deteriorating. The new sign will have metal posts and be sturdier. There are no dates for that yet.

8. The ZIP Book program is continuing through June 2024 as funds last. Patrons can request up to 5 books at a time to help build a community driven collection. Books are sent to the patron's home via Amazon at no cost to them. The patron can read them and bring them back to the library where they can be added to the library collection or otherwise used.

Membership Report

Since the last meeting Carol received one new member and two renewals. She has a list of members and those who are behind in their dues are highlighted. She will bring the list to the book sale where many are expected to renew. Jill asked for a copy of the list which Carol will provide.

Treasurers Report

Nani provided copies of the latest report – through March 2024. She commented that we are solvent but not gaining income. There were no questions.

Old Business

1. The Old Kern County Ridgecrest Library on West Ridgecrest Blvd. is currently managed by the Historical Society. John Freeman, Jerry Bradley, and Jill Richards toured the building and thought it would be a good place for the sale and sorting of books. It did not have much storage space. The Quilt Guild is currently using the building for their meetings. The Historical Society is happy with their relationship with the Guild because the guild rents the Veteran's Hall several times each year which brings them income, even though the Quilters do not pay for rent or utilities, they are good tenants. John and Jerry have drafted a proposal for the Historical Society to request that occupancy of the building be transferred to the Friends. But they recognize that they need to work with the Quilt Guild and the county (Phillip Peters) to gain agreement on the plan. John took the lead to communicate with the county and the

guild to see if they could work out an agreement and then they could approach the Historical society with a proposal.

2. The Spring Sale planning is underway for the weekend. Jil continued to get signups for volunteers, and Jerry is helping with that. Kathy Donahue is the point person for moving the books into place. Nani has the cash and the register volunteers ready. She will count the money and make the deposits. Carol will provide membership lists and help with signups – especially Saturday morning. Jil wants to talk to Frank Johns – the book seller, to coordinate the possible sale of 100 boxes of book and listing books on Amazon. She will also coordinate with Naomi Norris to also list books online. Jerry said he will have Reading Shaman “statues” to give to donors of \$50 or more. Jil asked about t-shirts and tote bags that were given as prizes. It was agreed to give tote bags also for \$50 and t-shirts for \$25 or more. Jerry will make signs for the cash registers for these. Nancy Saxton will bring water and a cooler. Sandy Bradley will bring cookies for volunteers. Extra chairs will be provided for seating for patrons who may need a break.

3. Nancy Saxton spoke to the park department about the possibility of locating a Little Free Library in Pearson Park. The city agreed to the concept and offered some possible locations. Nancy recommended a spot that can be seen and watched easily. She asked about getting the library, and Jerry said he has one that came from Inyokern that is ready to install. They will followup.

4. Julie Gervais is negotiating with the Ridgecrest Cinema to host a fundraising movie. That will likely be in June with a *Despicable Me* offered. Tickets will be available online via Zeffy and Charissa will help with the publicity.

5. Jerry brought up the idea of a dinner/auction fundraiser. He had attended several in the past year that earned money for the Rotary, the Maturango Museum and the college. Charissa suggested that it could even be just a dessert event for less cost, but most agreed that alcohol would help earn money – and a beverage license could be an issue. The idea will be considered in the future.

New Business.

The China Lake Museum has a library that it is weeding. They have @ 1,000 books that they are offering to the Friends. The collection is primarily from a local donor and consists of books of history, warfare, biography and similar titles. They have not finalized the list of books they will offer. Jerry and Sandy looked at the collection which is in good used condition and most books include a dust cover and Dewey Decimal classification number. The board agreed to take the books after the Spring Sale if there is room to store them. Jerry will contact Bob Campbell to let him know.

Nani reminded everyone that the Newsletter deadline was on April 26th.

The action items were reviewed.

1. John and Jerry will contact the Quilt Guild, the Methodist Church, the county and the Historical Society to negotiate the OLD Ridgecrest Library building.
2. Jerry will make signs for the book sale to indicate prices of donations for shaman, t-shirts and tote bags.
3. Jerry will provide names of any volunteers to Jill as he receives them.
4. Nancy will bring water, a cooler, and ice to the sale.
5. Everyone will consider possible candidates for secretary and let Jerry or Sandy know so that they can contact them.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

The next meeting will be May 15, 2024, Carol Pearson will chair.