

Chico Friends of the Butte County Library, aka. Chico Friends of the Library , CFOL

Minutes of Board Meeting March 16, 2021

Present via Zoom on-line: Elizabeth Bergthold, Brenda Crofts, Byron Fountain, Diane Friedman, Katherine Gould, Keith Herritt, Nancy Leek, Satsie Veith

Absent: Margaret Bomberg, Merle Burbridge, Sandy Boyd

Staff: Misty Wright (Chico Branch Manager)

Katherine Gould called the meeting called to order at 6:40 pm.

Minutes: The minutes of the February, 2021, meeting were approved. (Friedman, Crofts, approved.)

Reports

Treasurer: The board reviewed reports for the current month as presented by Treasurer Diane Friedman. CFOL received \$13,000 in dues in response to the February membership letter. There are 210 current members out of a list of 500 (some of whom are “courtesy” members). Revenue this month was \$23,000; \$16,000 was spent, including \$6000 on books and magazines and \$600 on the Bassett Memorial Bench.

Book Sale: Nancy Leek reported that lobby sales continue to make about \$100 per week. Lisa’s internet sales brought in \$1198.30 last month.

Librarian’s Report: Misty Wright said that library staff are back to working regular hours this month and are no longer working from home. Chico is hiring a library assistant and will be back to full staff. A new assistant director, Francis Hebert, will start work in April. It is hoped that the Chico and Oroville branches, which have been on reduced hours due to the pandemic, will return to normal operating hours of 10 to 6 by early April. Staff are working on a plan to allow book sales to take place again. Misty spoke with Library Director Narinder Sufi about the Orange Boy program and reported to the board that it took time to integrate it with Koha, the library management system. Staff are learning how to produce new types of email newsletters and curated booklists, do more data analysis, and create more targeted emails to library users.

Little Free Libraries: Elizabeth Bergthold reported on a good response (ie, book donations) from her articles in the OLLI and Trinity Methodist newsletters. She suggested that once the book sale is underway again, she could regularly supply books to the CHAT warehouse that furnishes housing units for families. Board reaction was positive. There was discussion of a letter to the editors of the Enterprise-Record and Chico News & Review regarding the ongoing need for children’s books.

Ongoing Business

Library Hours Sign: Katherine reported that the company’s fix to the sign is inadequate, as it holds the cover only about two feet away from the sign – not enough room to reach in and place letters. The company has a new plan but has not yet carried it out.

Memorial for Linda Lee Bassett: Diane reported that Daniel Botsford was able to measure the bench for the plaque size, but the plaque will take four to six weeks to make. The old bench has found a new home.

Giving Tuesday Ad: Byron reported that the Enterprise-Record’s offer is to double the amount of space purchased for an ad. For instance, we could pay \$100 for a 1/8 page ad and get ¼ page of space. The ads start to run in March. The Board agreed to put off this purchase until we have an important announcement to make, such as the rebirth of the book sale.

LAB Grant Proposal/Teen Book Club: The Library Advisory Board will discuss Kimberlee Wheeler's proposal for a Teen Book Club and Misty's proposal for a Chico Book-Club-in-a-Box at their April meeting.

New Business

May 18 Annual Meeting: The board discussed possible speakers on the history of the Chico city and Butte County library. Brenda will contact Nancy Brower, a retired librarian who is active in the Butte County Historical Society. A backup possibility is Elizabeth Stewart, who is also a retired librarian and a member of the Chico Heritage Association.

Newsletter: Keith, who recently emailed the board a list of topics and suggested writers, asked that people submit those articles to him in the next couple of weeks. He will also publish the list of donors (not amounts) that Diane has sent him. However, he will hold off on publication until he can include the speaker for the May meeting and the date expanded library hours will begin.

Nominations: After Diane reminded us that nominations for officers must be included in the newsletter so that members can vote on them at the May meeting, the board discussed contacting some absent board members to see if they are able and willing to continue. It may be necessary to find a nominee for Vice-President depending on Sandy Boyd's response. Diane agreed to be nominated to continue as Treasurer. The positions of President and Secretary do not expire this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40.

The next meeting is Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 6:30 pm.