

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

Minutes of Board Meeting October 19, 2021

Present: Elizabeth Bergthold, Margaret Bomberg, Merle Burbridge, Brenda Crotts, Diane Friedman, Katherine Gould, Nancy Leek, Satsie Veith

Absent: Byron Fountain, Keith Herritt, Annie Reimer

Staff: Misty Wright (Assistant Library Director)

Guest: Patrick Newell

Katherine Gould called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Minutes: The minutes of the September 21, 2021, meeting were approved. (Leek, Bergthold, approved.)

Reports

Treasurer: The board reviewed reports for the current month as presented by Treasurer Diane Friedman. The net value of our investments fell by about \$9000, probably because of dividend distribution and a drop in the markets. Diane received a note from Amazon Smile reporting that they have donated a total of \$863.11 to CFOL as of August 2021.

Book Sale: Nancy Leek reported that the September book sales brought in \$4406.20 and October sales so far have earned \$3885.10, including \$1142 in internet sales. The volunteer situation has improved.

Little Free Libraries: Elizabeth Bergthold was present but submitted her report by email. The food collection at the 12th St church LFL has mysteriously disappeared. Christine MacShane painted the wooden doors of the LFL at DeGarmo Park to look like shelved books; she has agreed to do the same at the Community Park LFL.

Librarian's Report: Misty Wright, currently acting as Chico branch librarian, reported that a new librarian to serve the Chico, Paradise, and Durham libraries has been hired and may be starting work the first week of December. Also newly hired is IT person Ken Makao. In response to questions from board members, Misty explained that the library administration has no intention at this time of hiring a full-time librarian for the Chico branch alone. The current planning is to hire more librarians to do programming, which would take this task from the branch librarian, giving that person more time to attend to the needs of the various branches. She says this decision was made by Library Director Narinder Sufi and the County Chief Executive Officer.

Patrick Newell, chair of the Library Advisory Board, said CFOL's letter to the LAB requesting a dedicated librarian for Chico will be discussed at LAB's meeting on Oct. 20. Nancy and Katherine plan to attend that meeting.

Ongoing Business

Enterprise Record Ad: Byron Fountain was absent. Katherine reported that he told her he had made some changes and improvements to the ad, but he had not circulated them to the board at the time of the meeting.

New Business

Membership Benefit: Diane proposed that the board offer as a membership benefit a waiver of library fines. After discussion, this idea was set aside in favor of coupons for use at the book sale. A motion was made to publicize in each newsletter (ie, each quarter) three current members who have been selected in a drawing to receive a \$10 book sale coupon. (Friedman, Bomberg, approved.) Keith will be consulted about publishing names in the newsletter.

Orange Boy Contract: In September 2020, after a request by then-Library Director Mel Lightbody, the board voted to approve up to \$7000 to purchase a two-year contract for the library to use this software program. CFOL paid \$3000 for the first year, and now the \$3000 invoice for the second year is due. The board discussed with Misty whether the program has proven to be worth the cost. Misty explained that the program has not been used to its full potential partly because of the pandemic. It has been mainly used to produce the library newsletter. Alex Chen was going to explore further uses; now his replacement, Ken Makao, should be doing that. It was agreed that CFOL is obligated to make the second payment in any case, but at the board's request Misty will ask for a report from the library in about 3 months on how the program is being used. She said that report would be made at the January 2022 meeting.

Tri-Counties Bank Account: Diane explained that the concern about bank fees she had raised by email has proven on further investigation not to be an issue.

Subscription to Microsoft 365: The board agreed on Diane's recommendation to pay the annual \$100 subscription to this service, which stores CFOL documents in the cloud among other things. No motion was required.

Quincy Library: Diane reported that her offer of books or money to the Quincy Friends of the Library was answered with an explanation that they certainly do not need books right now, but perhaps money would be welcome at some point when recovery plans are clearer. The board agreed to wait until possibly spring next year to consider sending a donation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be on November 16, 2021.