

# Chico Friends of the Library

## Minutes of November 20, 2007 Meeting

Present: Betty Forbes, Linda Leahy, John E. Few, Joan Olmstead, Derek Wolfgram, Mary Wahl, Macy Kelly, Debbie Cobb, Diane Friedman, Susan Davis, Gerald Davis, Margaret Bomberg, and Anne Nordhus

President Macy Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes of the October 16 meeting were approved as amended (Nordhus/Wahl).

Treasurer Susan Davis reported that in five months ending on October 31, total receipts were \$6,528.29 and expenditures, \$7,262.81. She mentioned that revenue from book sales was down a bit in October. One reason, someone suggested, was that the substantial book sale purchases by Desa have stopped thanks to the current unsettled real estate market. The board approved the treasurer's report (Leahy/Cobb), including payment for book sale signs, a mailing of 1,000 paperbacks to the troops, printing of gift cards and of flyers for the "Save the 25-hours" campaign, and for the addition of Sue Volpe's name to the donor plaque in recognition of her recent \$1,000 donation to the library.

The board also approved expenditure of \$150 for a library Christmas tree (Wahl/Leahy),

As follow-up to board discussion in October, the board asked for a clarification as to its role in the proposed Museum Without Walls early spring book club—would the Chico Friends be sponsors? Promoters? Margaret Bomberg volunteered to find out (after she returns from her visit in China) just what the Chico Friends' involvement would be.

Mary Wahl reported great public response to the Chico Friends request for letters, postcards, e-mails, and telephone calls to let the Chico City Council know that they like, want, need the city to continue its generous funding of 25 open hours in the library. Ann Elliott's idea of furnishing postcards for responses was especially effective. Council members have been inundated with public comments in support of the library. Scott Bertagna has given Macy, Derek, and Mary tips on how to be effective in this project. Library supporters are needed in great numbers at the November 27 meeting of the city's Finance Committee.

Derek reported that the Chico Branch library had 23 percent more visitors this October (when the Sunday open hours went into effect) than last October, and circulation was up by 18 percent.

John Few has received one of the two bids requested by the board for the installation of a sound system in the community room. Another bid is coming. Sounds by Dave will not compete. Thirty-two people attended the Classic Film Series presentation of *Casablanca* this month, and an even greater number attended a puppet show in the children's room on the same evening.

Fall Festival proceeds—\$250 net—was subject of brief debate. The question: what is the most appropriate use for the money? In the past, it was to help rebuild library service in Mississippi. This year it was proposed that the Chico Friends give it to the Nicholas Negroponte's "One laptop per child"

campaign. Some wondered about giving it to one of the Chico library's needs. No answers came. The issue has been postponed until the next meeting.

Library Director Derek Wolfgram reported to the group that the County is interested in the installation of a wireless system for a computer lab and for the rest of the library. This WiFi service will enable patrons in the library to connect their laptops to the internet. The County has applied again for an AT&T grant to help pay for it. (Its first grant request was not funded.) The board voted to provide up to \$3,000 for the project with or without the AT&T grant (Cobb/S. Davis).

The board also approved the format and contents of Macy's proposed membership remittance envelope. John Few plans to send the winter issue of the Carrel in January instead of December as in the past. The remittance envelope will be enclosed in that issue.

The board voted \$1,000 to continue the scanning project with CSU, Chico (Bomberg/S. Davis.) It relates to local history, specifically, to past city directories. The board did not take action on whether to invest in bumper stickers promoting the library nor on a proposal to encourage people to "adopt" a library volunteer by pledging dollars to the library on the basis of the number of hours the adopted volunteer works.

Macy has reluctantly received a letter of resignation from Sandy Boyd effective January 2008.

Macy, John, and Linda—the CFOL trivia team—reported that the Butte County Library's Literacy Bee, countywide fundraiser, was lots of fun and very successful. Fourteen teams competed in the event, and the Chico Branch team hung in there until the third round. (How many eyes does a bee have?) The event netted \$3,200.

The annual volunteer potluck is scheduled for December 12.

When asked about her second book, author Debbie Cobb said it is out and that she has book signings scheduled in early December at Bird in Hand; CSU, Chico; Lyon's Books; and other places.

As a result of board action (Few/Leahy), there will be no December board meeting (unless, of course, something comes up that can't wait.) The Chico Friends of the Library, therefore, will hold its next meeting in the library conference room on Tuesday, January 16, at 7 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Nordhus  
For Ann Elliott, secretary