

CHICO FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 21, 2009

PRESENT: Rob Atkinson, Margaret Bomberg, Gerald Davis, Susan Davis, Ann Elliott, John Few, Diane Friedman, Fé Howard, Linda Leahy, Al Luedecke, Rupert McDowell, Fred Marken, Marian Milling, Anne Morris, Anne Nordhus, Joan Olmstead, Susan Rauen, Mary Wahl
GUESTS: Supervisor Jane Dolan, Carolyn Dusenburg, Anna Guiles, Julie Lynch, Mardi Worley

President Ann Elliott called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the May 19, June 8 and June 29 meetings were approved. (M/S/C Susan D., Rob).

REPORTS

Treasurer: Susan D. distributed the financial statement and discussed the various entries. Reported approved. (M/S/C Linda, Anne N.) The discussion of what to do with earned interest was tabled for a later date.

Librarian: Susan Rauen gave thanks to all for working on solutions, none of which would have come to pass without help. Chico Branch has more foot traffic, more circulation, fewer hours and less staff. Friday morning story time continues, thanks to the Friends. Book money previously going into the trust fund was put on hiatus until the end of the fiscal year. Thanks to CFOL, books are being purchased and the treasurer has been paying the bills directly.

Volunteer Recognition: Anne N. distributed Betty's report. Thanks to volunteers, \$600 in book contributions was earned this last quarter.

Book Sale: The sale continues to earn about \$1,000 a week. Rob would like to see some PR for the book sale. Thanks as always to Rob and Rosa for their dedication.

County Advisory Board: Marian shared the attractive new planned giving brochure funded by the Gridley FOL. Carpooling will be available for the joint LAB/FOL meeting July 22nd.

ONGOING/NEW BUSINESS

Campaign committee report and request for funding: Rupert began with an apology for surprising the Board. He was operating under the understanding that the Board was already in favor of the proposal to hire a consultant and begin the campaign. After interviewing various consultants the Yes committee chose William Berry's firm based on track record.

Jane Dolan outlined the process and requirements for getting a parcel tax on the ballot for June 2010: first hire a campaign manager and conduct a poll to determine community support for dedicated library funding; report the findings to the County Supervisors in hopes of a decision in September. Should the Board of Supervisors support the proposal, we would incur no further cost, since an election is already scheduled for June of 2010. If the Supervisors deny the proposal, the next step would be the ballot initiative process, which would be costly and require many hours of volunteer help. Professional management is required to word the initiative correctly in order to prevent its being overturned on a technicality. Obstacles include the

required 2/3 majority to pass the funding and a county with a depressed economy. A ballot measure could be structured so the money would go to the various areas in proportion to the population using the library of that area.

Ann E. pointed out that any donation for the ballot measure needs to go to the Yes on Library Funding PAC and not the various FOL groups.

Rupert noted that, if poll results showed a lack of support, the effort would be finished for this year.

After a spirited discussion a motion was made:

- **Motion:** that CFOL give \$15,000 to the campaign committee for poll and start-up expenses. (M/S/C, Marian, Rupert) Treasurer Susan D. wrote a check for \$15,000 on behalf of the CFOL.

City funding: The city was not receptive to additional funding. One City Council member sent a generous personal contribution to the CFOL.

Library hours - funding, sponsors: Discussion concerned how to use any CFOL underwriting: for extra hours or for additional support for current open hours. Susan R. and Marion will consult with Roger Pearson concerning best option. The suggestion to contact service organizations for additional support was tabled until after this discussion.

Friday story times: The Board will fund Nancy Leek's Friday story time under the same terms through the end of FY 2009/2010. (M/S/C SD & MB/GD)

Tote bags: The current supply of tote bags is gone. Susan will order 500 Chico Bags (the minimum order) and canvas bags.

Bookmarks: Diane suggested printing bookmarks showing staff recommendations. She will assemble a list.

Fall Festival October 17 - contact assignments:

- Girl Scout troops: Susan D. will e-mail GSA liaison Maureen Jeffers.
- National Charity League: Fé
- Literacy Coach: Susan R.
- Authors: Mary will contact Debbie to see if she can help.
- Papa Murphy's: Susan D.
- Chico Mothers Club - Mary
- Music - Ann Elliott

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 18, 7:00 P.M.