

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

Minutes of Board Meeting June 18, 2024

Present: Elizabeth Bergthold, Margaret Bomberg, Merle Burbridge, Brenda Crotts, Jennifer Ellingson, Linda Elliott, Keith Herritt, Satsie Veith

Absent: Nancy Leek

Staff: Cynthia Pustejovsky, Chico Branch Librarian, Misty Wright, Interim Library Director

Guests: CFOL Volunteer Coordinator Penny Evenson, Liz Stewart, Butte County Asst. Chief Administrative Officer Meegan Jessee, Chief Administrative Officer Andy Pickett, Sheriff Kory Honea, Deputy Fire Chief Patrick Purvis

Brenda Crotts called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

Presentation on Proposed Ballot Measure: The guests listed above from Butte County addressed the meeting for about 50 minutes on the proposed 1% Butte County sales tax, which may soon be approved by the Board of Supervisors to be on the November ballot. Summary: Due to various factors including the passage of Prop 13 in 1978, county property tax revenue has not kept up with expenditures. As a result, the county's ability to meet costs for law enforcement, fire protection, and library facilities is now at a crucial point. The proposed sales tax would bring in about \$44 million per year, which could prevent drastic cuts that could end with library services being all but eliminated. Sheriff Honea expressed the hope that CFOL board members, and perhaps the CFOL itself, will join a campaign to educate voters on the need to approve the ballot measure or face worse budget cuts than have already occurred.

Regular Meeting

Minutes: The minutes of the April 16, 2024, and May 21, 2024, meetings were approved. (Bomberg, Ellingson, approved.)

Reports

Treasurer: Jennifer Ellingson told the board that CFOL has 29 new members so far this year; we received a generous donation from the Cosmos Club; she made a trip to the storage unit.

Book Sale: No report as Nancy Leek was absent.

Little Free Libraries: Elizabeth Bergthold and Penny Evenson recently restocked and checked on the LFL's, which are generally in good shape though some maintenance is needed.

Scholarship Committee: Jennifer met the scholarship winner and gave him his check.

Membership: Merle Burbridge expressed a wish to know what motivates new members to join so that we can better target the public.

Branch Librarian's Report: Cynthia Pustejovsky reported we should soon be receiving invoices for musical programs for July at \$200 each. She is still working on finding a location for the Wild Things show; the board voted to table a discussion of insurance for that until the next board meeting (Bomberg, Burbridge, approved.) Misty Wright told us she has been working on building support for the proposed budget measure; a social media person has been hired; a driver for the Mobile Library will soon be hired; the budget will be "status quo" ie, no drastic cuts.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8 p.m.

EMAIL VOTES:

On 5/23/24, President Brenda Crotts forwarded to CFOL Board Members a request from Interim Library Director Misty Wright that CFOL pay the \$50 fee for a County Library booth at the Stonewall Pride Festival. The request was approved.

On 5/30/24, President Brenda Crotts forwarded to CFOL Board Members a request from County Librarian Cynthia Pustejovsky that the CFOL sponsor 3 musical programs in June at the Chico Branch at a cost of \$500. The request was approved.

There will be no meeting in July. The next meeting will be August 20, 2024.