**Board Meeting Minutes of**

**December 4, 2024**

**Location:** Ullrich Delevati CPAs, 433 Second Street

**Directors present**: Rob Beggs (arrived late), Clyde Brooker, Tony Delevati, Lisa Martinez Dunham, Kris Kristensen, Nick Roncoroni, Dan Stroski

**Directors absent:** Aniek Pflager, Tom Schwarzgruber

**Guests present**: Woodland Rotary Club President Bob Nakken, Peter Holmes

1. President Tony Delevati called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.
2. Minutes of the Board’s October 23, 2024, meeting were reviewed. On the motion of Dan Stroski, seconded by Clyde Brooker, these minutes were unanimously approved (5 ayes, 0 noes).
3. Under New Business, Club President Bob Nakken indicated he has been looking for a local **children’s literacy project** for the Club to support this year. He has received a recommendation from Lori Ross that the Club consider acquiring bilingual children’s books for distribution to young children at Woodland’s Gibson School where the percentage of children eligible for free lunches has been increasing significantly in recent years, an indication many of the families of these children do not have enough discretionary income to provide their children with bilingual books read suitable for their ages. At Lori’s initiation the Club heard a presentation on November 12, 2024, about children’s literacy from Leticia Ordaz, an award-winning bilingual children’s book author and the founder of Cielito Lindo Books, an independent, bilingual publishing company based in Sacramento. Ordaz is passionate about helping local children improve their reading skills. She provided the Club with examples of several children’s books which she authored and published including ‘The Adventures of Mr. Macaw’; and ‘That Girl on TV Could Be Me!’. Bob said he gave one of the books to his three-year-old grandson who really enjoys the stories and pictures.

President Bob said the Club’s Board of Directors has approved the purchase of approximately 130 bilingual children’s books from Cielito Lindo Books for distribution to kindergarten and first grade students at Gibson School at a total cost of $2,000 and has requested the funds for this purchase come from the Woodland Endowment’s Community Fund. He was here with the Board today to make this request.

Board member Dan Stroski announced he has had a long working relationship with Leticia Ordaz’s husband, Enrique Baeza, which may pose a conflict of interest for him to participate in this decision. He has decided to abstain from participating on this issue.

Under questions from Board members, President Bob said he had no plans to make similar purchases for other local schools, but some additional ideas on supporting children’s literacy may be considered in the future. With the Endowment Board’s approval, the Club will purchase the books from Cielito Lindo Books and provide them to Gibson School officials for distribution by school personnel to the students.

On the motion of Nick Roncoroni, seconded by Lisa Dunham, the Board unanimously approved (5 ayes, 0 noes, and 1 abstention-Stroski) the purchase of approximately 130 bilingual children’s books at a cost not to exceed $2,000 from the Endowment’s Community Fund; purchase to be made from Cielito Lindo Books for distribution to the current kindergarten and first grade students at Gibson School.

1. The Board considered the **Berrettoni Scholarship**. Peter Holmes, who was the Endowment Board President from 2018-19, gave the Board some background on the scholarship honoring Woodland Rotary Club member George Berrettoni who been a member for 41 years, served as Club President in 1997-98 and passed away September 18, 2018. In 2019 the Endowment Board decided to establish a scholarship in George’s memory for any Woodland student graduating from high school with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher. The award would be need-based, rather than based on the candidate’s academic achievement. Preference would be given to students attending the University of Santa Clara (George’s alma mater), involvement in scouting, a blood donor, a finance or business major, a demonstrated ability to overcome diversity and a willingness to work hard. Donations came in from within and outside the Club. The Board wanted to make the application as simple as possible for applicants. Funds would be given all at once and could be used for any school-related purpose. The Board did not intend the scholarship to last forever. When the donated funds were given out the scholarship would end.

Applications for the first issuance of the scholarship were sought in March 2020. The impacts of the COVID pandemic delayed the issuance of the first award until July 20, 2021, when Ethan Horowitz was named the first recipient and presented with a $2,500 check. No additional prize has since been made. As of November 26, 2024, the Berrettoni Scholarship fund contains $22,158.90.

The Board expressed interest in restarting the Berrettoni Scholarship at the earliest opportunity and is also interested in finding someone in the Club who would champion the effort to find some good applicants for the Board’s consideration. President Tony has agreed to approach a Club member who had good knowledge of George Berrettoni to seek their leadership of such an effort, and to work with the Board on any necessary modifications on the Scholarship that need consideration.

1. **FINANCIAL REPORT** – The Board briefly reviewed the November 26, 2024 Endowment financial statements provided in advance of the meeting by Treasurer Tom Schwarzgruber. However, since the Treasurer was not present today, the Board deferred any action on the financial report to our next meeting.
2. The Board agreed its next meeting would take place on **Wednesday, February 5, at the UDCPA offices beginning at 4pm**. Next meeting agenda items will include discussion on the Endowment’s main Scholarship program; and discussion of preparations to fill anticipated Board terms starting July 2025.
3. President Delevati adjourned the meeting shortly after 5:00pm.

Respectfully submitted, Kris Kristensen, Secretary