



DCBA Board of Directors Meeting

Date: 1/8/26 Time: 8:00am Place: Chico State, Behavioral Health & Sciences Room 110

Attendees:

Directors: Mary Hartley, Linda Zorn, Anika Rodriguez, Steve Stull, Megan Kurtz, Nicole Hill, Nichole Farley, Shari Anderson, David Selkirk, Ian Macmillan, Pat Macias, Jennifer Ellingson, Mitch Kidder, Dylan Bond, Ron Linzy, Lia Juhl, Sally Macmillan

Staff: Celeste Cramer

City Liaison: Dale Bennett

Advisors: Erik Gustafson, Holli Drobny, Luis Moreno, Molly Kopta

Guests: Samantha Hernandez, Bryce Sharp, Bobbie Pipkin, Lina Matey

AGENDA

1.0 Welcome - Welcome new board members and thank you to former board members.

2.0 Collaborator Reports (10 min)

- *City of Chico – Councilmember Dale Bennet:* Supported appeal to not let mural approval hold up businesses.
- *City of Chico – Eric Gustafson:* Our next enforcement area will be downtown city building but people will more than likely go to the city plaza. Trying to provide case management, but many are service resistant. We appreciate your patience. Explained Warren settlement agreement – learn more on their website.
- *Chico State – Megan Kurtz:* Ended semester very well – head count for Spring is 15,632. Was able to retain most of the students from last semester. We reached a milestone of having over 30,000 alumni living in Butte County. Dates for Choose Chico is the first weekend in March – we do our commitment before other universities. More information is on the alumni website.
- *Butte College – Linda Zorn:* Enrollment is great.
- *Chamber of Commerce – Molly Kopta:* Working on annual dinner and State of the City event. All information is on our website.



- *Explore Butte County – Nichole Farley:* Getting ready for 2026, working on partnerships with hotels and working on branding.
- *3Core – Luis Moreno:* Received funding for providing technical assistance to small businesses free of charge. Will get flyer to DCBA.
- *MONCA - Pat Macias:* Ended the year with a great New Years Eve party. Snow Goose exhibit is on now.
- *City of Chico – Arts Commission - Bonnie Pipkin:* We have our first board meeting coming up and working with DCBA on a way to collaborate on ARTober Fest.
- *CARD – Holli Drobny:* We are having in-person and online surveys for the community to let us know input and which parks CARD should acquire.

3.0 Consent Agenda (5 mins)

3.1 Board Meeting Minutes, Nov 6, 2025 and Dec 4, 2025

ACTION: Vote to approve Board Meeting Minutes - Motion: Megan/Anika. All in favor.

3.2 December 2025 Financial Reports - Treasurer Ian MacMillian: About \$50,000 increase from Dec 2025 vs Dec 2024. December is notorious for not being a money maker month for us. Our expenses are lower as we were able to cut down on a lot of expenses.

ACTION: Vote to approve Financial Reports - Motion: Anika / Second: Megan. All in favor.

2026 DCBA Budget: Presented proposed 2026 budget.

ACTION: Vote to approve 2026 Budget - Motion: Linda / Second: Anika. All in favor.

4.0 Action Items (5 mins)

4.1 Assessment Plan: We are moving forward to present the new assessment plan to the city. Ian reviewed what the changes are to the assessment. Celeste will be moving forward with next steps, including working with the city. Eric Gustafson said that he needs to get it over to the city attorney. Discussed how the voting works, timeline and process. Eric addressed that the city is going to work on some of the problems with collecting fees and how many businesses are operating without business licenses. Decided to do an online vote to move it to the city on Jan 16th and Celeste offered to meet with anyone who has questions in the meantime.



4.2 Review updated financial management policy: Decided to wait until the next meeting to approve to give new board members time to review.

4.3 Board retreat: Decided to do the board retreat on Monday, January 26th from 8 am – 12 pm.

5.0 Assessment Update (5 mins): Update in 4.1

6.0 DCBA Welcome Center Updates (10 minutes)

General Manager Update, Celeste Cramer: 1) Got proposed 2026 dates for events and the City of Chico is now reviewing with the mapping of the street closures. In our agreement with the city, we have a list of events that are annual, and we have 3 more events that are flexible. When we change those dates, we use one of the 3 flexible events. 2) The DCBA staff decided to not add any new events in 2026 and make our signature events better than they have in the past. 3) We are working on getting the Thursday Night Market application open. Discussed closing Main Street especially during the cooler months which means we could accept more vendors. Discussed ideas to activate city plaza – including having schools do performances, kid corner, etc.

General Manager's Update is attached for more information.

7.0 New Business (15 mins)

- Open Executive Board positions: We are not ready to vote in the new positions, so we need to vote to keep interim positions in place until the February board meeting. ACTION: Vote to keep people in the interim until February Board meeting. Motion: Anika/Second: Linda. All in favor.
- Anika: The City of Chico offers a validation process through the city but it's confusing. She suggested asking for a presentation on that program.
- Steve: As the City moves forward with the new downtown rehabilitation plan, he offered to be there to give out information or help clarify.
- Megan: Called for a closed session following this meeting.

8.0 Adjourn meeting - next Board Meeting – February 5, 2026