

**MINUTES of the MEETING of the
ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD**

**THURSDAY, December 17, 2009
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library**

CALL TO ORDER:

President Susan Ottaway called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Susan Ottaway, Jeanine McCreary, Jackie Breakstone, Helene Grande, Pete Ogden, Mary Theiss Lyons.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Amos Goodwine, Barbara Wingerter.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Hiram (Hi) Daley, new board member for January, 2010; Library: Margaret Z. Stewart, Library Director; Joan Duke, Main Library Coordinator; Anthony Keck, District Consultant, Patrice Berchtold, Executive Assistant. Friends of the Library: Robert Gallivan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Jeanine McCreary moved to approve the minutes of the Library Advisory Board meeting on November 19, 2009. Mary Theiss Lyons seconded the motion. Approved by unanimous vote.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT (Robert Gallivan)

Bob announced that the Friends will hold their Romance paperback book sale on Thursday, February 11, 2010 from noon to 8:00 p.m., Friday, February 12, 2010 from 9-5 and Saturday, February 13, 2010 from 9 to 3 in the Admiral Room of the Blasco Memorial Library. This is the 10th year the Friends have done the Romance books for Valentine's weekend. The next book collection drive will be late March or early April.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT (Margaret Z. Stewart)

The financial statement ending 11/30/09 was reviewed. Margaret reported that overall the budget is looking okay for the end of the year. She is in the process of making some budget transfers for overages in some areas but we will end the year in the black. In the November Status Report, it was mentioned we had several facilities issues this month. There was a problem with the siding at Iroquois and that will be replaced. Security cameras will be installed inside Blasco to help with security issues. We didn't have enough money for exterior cameras. The first quote received was for \$20,000 for 5 cameras and DVR equipment. Hi Daley thought that quote was high and suggested calling the Corry School district (Mike Andrus) to see who they used to install cameras in the schools and Park in Corry. The budget report was unanimously accepted.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Margaret Z. Stewart)

At the last meeting we talked about the budget maintaining Sunday hours, but in order to do this branch hours and bookmobile hours were cut. Since the new hours have been published, we are starting to receive complaints from the public. Most of the complaints are regarding the reduction in branch hours. There have only been two complaints regarding the bookmobile; most patrons are happy that it is still running at all.

At the last meeting we also discussed the county's plan to centralize maintenance. We were able to get Andrew's position on County Council's agenda to reinstate for six months, however, at Tuesday's County Council meeting, it was voted down. We will be meeting with Luigi Pasquale to discuss how maintenance will be handled.

Margaret referred board members to her report, which she emailed to them.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS (Joan Duke)

The board reviewed the latest circulation report, which showed a 16% increase for November in overall circulation over last year. Circulation was up everywhere except the bookmobile. The number of patrons visiting the Blasco Library was 31,754 which is an 8% increase from last year. The Heritage Room attendance has seen a 55% increase over November, 2008. Usage in the Internet Lab system-wide increased by 16.8% in November.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT CONSULTANT (Anthony Keck)

Tony reported that he is waiting to hear from the State regarding Power Library which expires on 12/31/09. The State will provide some type of Power Library. We are working on the 2010-11 E-Rate, which is a discount on telecommunication lines to run to the branches. The new Librarian at the Albion library is Patty Bowersox and we will be providing training to her within the next month. The State also notified us that the budget for 2010-11 will be a bare-bones budget. There is a 217 million dollar shortfall from 2009 which the State is starting the year with.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

An article appeared in the newspaper regarding the disappearance of DVD's from Blasco, suggesting having patrons pay a deposit for these DVD's. Tony felt that the State would have a problem with charging for this. Margaret feels that we may have to discontinue providing DVD's for the library. The biggest problem is with the TV series on DVD. Recently a large number of DVD cases have been cut with a knife and the DVD stolen, in addition to DVD's checked out and not returned. We continue to use the collection agency (Unique Management) to try to recover money and materials not returned to the library. Another option is keeping DVD's only at the branches because they don't disappear from the branches like they do at Blasco.

NEW BUSINESS

Nomination of Officers: Jeanine McCreary was nominated as President and Helene Grande was nominated for Vice President. There were no further nominations. Pete Ogden moved to approve the slate of officers and Mary Theiss Lyons seconded the motion. Approved by unanimous vote.

A moment of silence was proposed in remembrance of Sr. Kathleen.

Hiram will not be at the February meeting; Mary will not be at the January, February and March meetings. Margaret will not be at the January meeting as she is having knee replacement surgery on December 31st. Joan Duke will be acting Director in Margaret's absence.

The next Advisory Board meeting is January 21, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.