

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

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**THURSDAY, February 20, 2014  
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Joe Mineo called the meeting to order at 12:00.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dennise Beaumont, Jackie Breakstone, William Garvey, Marilyn Kraus, Joe Mineo, Diane Papesch, Mary Scutella.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Kathleen Keys, Stephanie Lewis.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Library: Mary Rennie, Executive Director; Joan Duke, Main Library Coordinator; Tony Keck, District Consultant; Patrice Berchtold, Executive Assistant. Friends of the Library: Marcy Bencivenga.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Jackie Breakstone made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 21, 2013. Marilyn Kraus seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

**HEARING OF CITIZENS:** None.

**REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL LIAISON (Ed DiMattio):** None. Ed was not able to attend.

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY UPDATE (Marcy Bencivenga):**

Marcy stated that their store is now open on Sundays from 1-4. Carol Gettinger is the new store coordinator and has found volunteers to open the store on Sundays. The next book collection will be held on April 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-2:00 on the east side of Blasco. They accept all books except text books, magazines and Readers Digest. The Great American Book Sale will be held June 15<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup>. Marcy and Mary have a meeting with WQLN tomorrow regarding Friend's sponsored programs. It was suggested to advertise at some local summer spots like Sara's, The Tom Ridge Environmental Center, etc.

**REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT (Mary Rennie):**

Mary stated that because it is early in the year, it is hard to tell if anything will be over except for our plowing and gas bills. Empire does most of the branch plowing except for Edinboro whose plowing is included in the condominium fees. All plowing goes out to bid.

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Mary Rennie):**

The Director's report focuses on the library development and initiatives. Our new policy changes go into effect 3/1/14. Mary has contacted Luigi Pasquale to begin formal negotiations with Cafaro regarding the Millcreek branch. We want to keep the branch in the Millcreek area because it is the busiest branch and circulation continues to increase there. The Camtech space

on the other side of the museum has been vacant for years. Mary talked to Kathy Dahlkemper regarding us using that space. We would like to utilize that space for classes or programs. Parking is a problem but because we already occupy the space, we do not need to add parking in order to use that part of the building. If we rented it out we would have to provide additional parking. Scott Enterprises owns the parking area next to the Museum and Hamot employees use that area. We do not tell people that they can park there and library employees do not park there. Staff restructuring and mobile reference is beginning. We have greeters who are to ask patrons if they need help. It was suggested for them to ask “what can I help you find” instead of can I help you because people automatically respond with “I am just looking”. Librarians will be contacting community resources to work on partnering and programming. Library programming is continuing in record numbers. The Artist in Residence, Jude Shingle, is beginning at the end of February. We have started a rebranding effort with Tungsten Design. At the direction of Kathy Dahlkemper Mary contacted Michael Furhman of Destination Erie to discuss the Library’s involvement. The Library will participate in the Community Facilities workgroup under education and cultural life and the Community Engagement Task Force. Mary will speak at the Jefferson Society on the Future of Libraries in March or April. Mary is also scheduled to speak to County Council on 3/20 on the Future of Libraries. The Board asked if they could attend that meeting. Mary will check and let them know. (FYI: Answer is yes they can attend.)

#### **STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS (Joan Duke):**

January was not a good month statistically due to the weather. The bookmobile was off the road for three days in January. Digital downloads was up 16% from January, 2013. It is apparent that we need to promote Freegal music, as those usage numbers have been dropping. The number of programs was up, however, attendees was down due to the weather. The number of volunteers was also up for January. We are also offering a new “Consumer Reports” database which you can find under “research services”.

#### **REPORT OF THE DISTRICT CONSULTANT (Tony Keck):**

Tony stated that the Governor’s budget came out and it had a \$500,000 increase in state aid. In the District, that means a \$3,000 increase. The new State Librarian is pushing sharing materials throughout the state libraries. District negotiations are going to start soon. The state is looking closely at how the district money is being spent. This could change how we provide service district wide.

#### **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

There were several newspaper articles in your packet.

#### **BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES:**

In reviewing the By-Laws by Joe, it was discovered that there are somewhat outdated. Mary could meet with several board members to look at revisions. Joe Mineo, Diane Papesch and Mary Scutella volunteered to meet with Mary and she will email them regarding a meeting. (We will email the By-Laws to the Board and any recommended changes should be sent to Joe prior to next meeting.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policy changes/District Agreement vote results:**

The results of the two telephone votes taken are included in the board packet. Both were approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Board was asked to vote on the proposed 2014 closings. They are:

4/20/14 Close Easter Sunday

11/26/14 Close at 5pm instead of 8:30 (Day before Thanksgiving)

12/24/14 Close at 5pm instead of 8:30 (Christmas Eve)

12/31/14 Close at 5pm instead of 8:30 (New Year's Eve)

10/13/14 Columbus Day – Close for staff development day.

Dr. Garvey made a motion to approve the above proposed closings. Dennise Beaumont seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**The next Advisory Board meeting is March 20, 2014.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.