

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

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

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Joe Mineo called the meeting to order at 12:01.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

William Garvey, Kathleen Keys, Stephanie Lewis.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mary Scutella made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 20, 2014. Jackie Breakstone seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

**HEARING OF CITIZENS:** None.

**REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL LIAISON (Ed DiMattio):** Mr. DiMattio had no report at this time.

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY UPDATE (Marcy Bencivenga):** Marcy was unable to attend.

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

There is nothing significant to report at this time. Line items for utilities and snow plowing are overspent due to the weather.

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

The Library's programming has been a major focus this year, especially for teens and adults. The Artist in Residency Program began and we have seen totally filled classes. This is something we would like to continue in the future since the response has been so amazing. We had hoped to use the Camtech space for these types of classes. However, we met with the city inspector and fire inspectors this week and were told we cannot use the space because there is not a separate entrance which is properly graded and it does not meet ADA requirements. There are also parking issues. We are now looking at any space in the library that we can use for Box of Lights classes. Our programs have been extremely successful this past year. We are still waiting for negotiations to begin with Cafaro regarding the Millcreek branch. We would like to use the future Millcreek branch as a digital media studio. Outreach has focused on a re-branding for the library. We met with Jody Farrell of Tungsten regarding a new logo and identify. This rebranding will lead into a membership campaign in May. Tony and Mary attended a Destination Erie meeting and will participate in the economic development and

social/educational components of this group. Sue Miceli, Children's Library manager also represents the library with Erie Together, which seeks to reduce poverty by encouraging kindergarten readiness. Local Jazz expert, Bob Protzman, donated a large collection which we will be showcasing in June. We want to market and build programming around this collection. Jazz music is an art form that is uniquely American and we are all excited about the possibilities this collection offers for the library and community at large.

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

Most of February's circulation statistics are down except for Lincoln Community Center which showed a 4% increase. Digital downloads was also up 17%. The number of programs offered in February was up 33% however, attendees were down due to the weather. Facebook likes saw a 28% increase from February, 2013. Joan is working on including some broader digital statistics for the future.

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

Tony stated that the State Librarian is reviewing services throughout the Commonwealth. She is having a problem with our delivery in the district. John Brice of Crawford County and Tony has compiled a rationale for keeping this service. If she does not accept this rationale, the district delivery service would need to change. Mary and Tony are attending the Regional Leadership Training (which used to be the DLC) on April 21, 22 and 23, 2014. Annual Reports are due and Tony will be submitting this. We need Joe Mineo's signature on the Annual Report signature page.

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

There were several newspaper articles in your packet.

**BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES:**

The By-Laws committee met to review the current by-laws and make proposed changes. The changes were discussed with the Board. The Board will vote on the proposed changes at the April meeting. We will send the old by-laws and current proposed changes to all Board members electronically to compare language.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Board Member replacements/continuations:**

We are still waiting for Carol Loll and Andre Horton to appoint a new board member and for Phil Fatica to re-appoint Joe to a second term.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**The next Advisory Board meeting is April 17, 2014 at The Edinboro Branch Library, 413 West Plum Street, Edinboro.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.