

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

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**THURSDAY, April 17, 2014  
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Kathleen Keys, Elspeth Koehle, Joe Mineo, Diane Papesch, Mary Scutella.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Dennise Beaumont, Jackie Breakstone, William Garvey, Marilyn Kraus.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mary Scutella made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 20, 2014. Kathleen Keys seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

**HEARING OF CITIZENS:** None.

**REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL LIAISON (Ed DiMattio):** None.

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY UPDATE (Marcy Bencivenga):** Marcy was unable to attend, however, the Cookbook/Gardening Book Sale will be held in the Admiral Room on May 8<sup>th</sup> from noon to 8pm, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 5pm and on May 10<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 3pm.

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

Mary wanted to note that the county collapsed all of the branches into one line for this year's budget. Each branch used to be a separate line. Mary will bring in the branch spread sheet for the board to see details. The areas of concern are utilities and maintenance. The skylight at Blasco is leaking and will need to be replaced. The county would likely pay for this through a bond issue, as well as replacing or repairing the geothermal unit which will need to be done in the next few years. The state will have a say in replacing the geothermal unit because of the long term agreement between the county and the Museum. There was a \$2,800 maintenance cost at Iroquois for the alarm panel to be replaced.

The bookmobile has been at 5 Star and Cleveland Brothers for evaluation. The engine has to be replaced or repaired – that, along with some other repairs would total approximately \$28,000. The bookmobile is only eight years old and has 70,000 miles. Mary met with County Administration and Ed DiMattio is aware of this. Kathy Dahlkemper will be meeting with county council to discuss options. The options are to 1) fix, at a cost of \$28,000; 2) drop bookmobile services; 3) raise money for a new bookmobile which would cost around \$250,000; or 4) redefine bookmobile services with a van-type vehicle. We would have hoped that the bookmobile would have lasted ten to twelve years. Over the years we have reduced bookmobile stops and circulation is half of what it used to do. Bookmobile circulation was at 22,500 for last

year which is the same circulation Millcreek does in one month. Bookmobile circulation accounts for only 2% of our overall circulation, however, it does serve some people who are not directly served by one of our branches. We are especially concerned for Springfield Township, the Wattsburg area and some assisted living centers and nursing homes. We would like to continue some type of services to these areas. Mary is recommending a smaller cargo van for deliveries. Most of the bookmobile users put holds on books and we can offer a pick-up and drop-off service. Another option would be books by mail. We would be able to open Edinboro up another evening and for longer hours by using the bookmobile staff. We have developed a survey for bookmobile patrons asking them what type of services they want. Mary will also be asking for additional per-diem money for the 2015 budget so we can open up the branches for longer hours and on weekends.

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

April is National Library month and this year's theme is "Lives change at your library". For May we will be kicking off the Library Card Initiative and we will be hosting "Arthur" on May 3<sup>rd</sup> courtesy of WQLN. Local activist Johnny Johnson is bringing a traveling exhibit from the National Library of medicine to the Blasco Library. The "Opening Doors Exhibit" showcases the role of African Americans as health care providers in the history of medicine. The exhibit will be at the Library from May 12<sup>th</sup> – June 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be a kick-off reception and we will let the Board know when that will take place. Kathy Dahlkemper, Luigi Pasquale and Mary met on 4/8 with Anthony Cafaro, Sr. to discuss the terms of the Millcreek Branch lease. The current agreement is in effect through July, 2015 and the cost would double under the proposed renewal agreement. The Cafaro Corp. offered us the second floor of the Burlington space. They will open this area up as a main mall hall and sub-divide the space. We could double the current Millcreek space. We will consider this space as well as other opportunities that may come up. We would like to create a technology studio or digital media studio and we are considering a bigger Millcreek space or renovating Blasco to create this. We need to find out if the mall space has high speed internet. Other location options for Millcreek may also be considered. Mary and Tony go to Harrisburg the week of 4/21 and will be talking about the changing role of libraries at the Regional Library Training Workshop. Mary hopes to talk at length with officials of Commonwealth Libraries about the future of libraries and ways that Pennsylvania libraries could be supported on the state level. Ann Randall Dill, the library's Technology Coordinator will be retiring on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### **STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS (Mary Rennie):**

We are very pleased that our circulation totals for March were up 2% over March, 2013. Lincoln and Millcreek saw sizeable increases. Digital downloads are up 18% over March, 2013 and the number of programs offered was up 65% and attendees was up 75% over March of last year. Blasco does the majority of the programs, however, all of the branches offer some programs.

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

Tony stated that he and Mary are going to Harrisburg to attend the Regional Leadership Training. The State Librarian will begin telling libraries what changes she will be suggesting for the Library Code and Standard. She is also looking at how the District Centers are spending their district money. All of this money needs to benefit the entire district. The first District negotiations are scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup> and Tony and Mary will attend. These negotiations decide how the district money will be spent. There is talk about cuts to the Governor's Budget, so we are not sure how this will affect our budget.

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

There were several newspaper articles in your packet.

**BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES:**

The revised By-Laws were discussed at the last Board meeting and we are now entertaining a motion to approve. Diane Papesch made a motion to approve the changes to the By-Laws. Mary Scutella seconded the motion. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

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

We welcome Elspeth Koehle to the Board. Everyone introduced themselves and we thank Elspeth for serving. We are still waiting for Carol Loll to appoint a replacement for Marilyn Kraus and for Phil Fatica to re-appoint Joe to a second term.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**The next Advisory Board meeting is May 15, 2014.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.