

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

**THURSDAY, January 15, 2015
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library**

CALL TO ORDER:

Joe Mineo called the meeting to order at 12:03.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mary Frances Baugh, Jackie Breakstone, Kathleen Keys, Joe Mineo, Diane Papesch, Mary Scutella.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

William Garvey, Elspeth Koehle, Christine Matheis.

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mary Scutella made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 18, 2014. Jackie Breakstone 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):

The Romance book sale will be held February 12, 13, 14th in the Admiral Room. They are looking into having a local romance author speak to help boost sales. The board suggested spreading rose petals in the room, having Romolo's chocolate samples or someone dressed in Victorian clothing escort people into the room. They also suggested having a display in the library advertising the sale or having a bowl with coupons such as BOBO or buy 2 get one free for the sale. The cookbook/gardening sale will be in May and it was suggested to contact Frankie and May's or Super Suppers for that sale for some type of promotion for that sale.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT (Mary Rennie):

Since the 2014 books are not closed, there is no financial report.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Mary Rennie):

Mary stated that the RFP for architectural services went out last Friday. It is strictly for design services and it was very generally structured. We know anything that we go forward with we will need to do fundraising which would be done through the Erie Regional Library Foundation. If everyone is interested in reviewing the proposals let Mary know. Mary talked to Sarah Jane Lowry who has knowledge of libraries and fundraising on ways to proceed. Besides the second floor redesign, we will also look at costs for redesigning the first floor and doing some facelifts on the first floor such as replacing the carpet.

2015 priorities: "world domination" is our tongue-in-cheek phrase for planning for and establishing priorities for library services, better customer services and providing services for the changing library and making the library a true community resource. Along with the second floor redesign, we will be

focusing on the patron experience. We will be focusing less on collections and more on human capital such as people, places and platforms. Mary met with the librarians to start a process to develop internal changes, to invite participation in the development of what the library should become. We have been working with Sue Banks from the Carnegie Library who developed a strategic plan and patron focus areas which we will be molding to fit our goals. We are going to use their model to accomplish a mini project for the second floor and to develop a 2016-2020 strategic plan which will include the entire library. We received a quote from Strategies Solutions on how much it would cost to train managers to be facilitators. We received a quote on having Sue Banks come in to talk with the librarians. We have identified three areas to focus on:

- 1) collections
- 2) philosophy and standards of services
- 3) programming and partnerships.

Joe Mineo stated that Greentree Library was selected as a “star” library, which was the only library in Pennsylvania to receive this rating. It was suggested to spend some time at Greentree Library to see why they are designated as a “star” library. It may be helpful to include some librarians on this visit. The board also suggested having an essay contest on “how has the library made a difference in your life”.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS (Mary Rennie):

Overall circulation was up 7% this December compared to December, 2013. The bookmobile is back on the road.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT CONSULTANT (Mary Rennie):

Rice Avenue Library has a new director, Rhonda Nichols. The former director retired. The new Governor will be sworn in on Tuesday and normally the new budget is released in February. However, this year the budget will be released in March. It looks like it will be another tight budget. The Governors Advisory Council met and they have come up with some initiatives that they want to look at this year. Tony will keep the board apprised of any changes or updates.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES: None

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

There are several newspaper articles to review in your packet.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Joe Mineo sent a get well card to Dr. Garvey from the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

We will be looking for the board’s opinion and insights moving forward with the initiatives we are undertaking.

The next Advisory Board meeting is February 19, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.