

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

**THURSDAY, July 16, 2015
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library**

CALL TO ORDER:

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jackie Breakstone, Dr. William Garvey, Kathleen Keys, Joe Mineo, Diane Papesch, Mary Scutella.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mary Frances Baugh, Elspeth Koehle, Christine Matheis.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Library: Mary Rennie, Executive Director; Tony Keck, District Consultant; Ann Marie Pochedly, Branch Coordinator; Patrice Berchtold, Executive Assistant. Marion Gallivan, Friend's of the Library.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Diane Papesch made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 18, 2015. Mary Scutella 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 (Marion Gallivan):

The Great American Book Sale made a profit of \$34,000. This is a new record – the sale made \$16,000 the first day! Their annual meeting will be on July 27th and Mary Rennie is the guest speaker. They are also advertising for Erie Gives.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT (Mary Rennie):

We are at the half year mark and most lines are pretty good. We will be going to County Council to ask for an appropriation of additional funds for the branch maintenance and repair lines due mostly to the building expenses at Iroquois. We may have to replace the siding at Iroquois next year.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Mary Rennie):

We have had the busiest June in three years! We are doing a lot of programs. We are going through the conceptualization plan of the redesign for Blasco. The plan came through with the maker space and business components on the first floor instead of the second. We will be having public meetings when we have a more final plan. We have received about 300 surveys about the Blasco library. One of the areas that the survey highlighted were collections are still very important to people and valued the most. Another important area was access to views and making sure we don't duplicate services. Our business component will serve the would-be entrepreneurs who don't make it at other start-ups because they don't have the skills needed or they aren't ready when they go. The changes to Blasco will be done in stages. The Cafaro Foundation donation of \$100,000 will get us started and we believe as we roll out services, the money will follow. Mary met with Mike Batchelor of the Erie Community Foundation along with some Erie Regional Library Foundation members regarding Dr. Blasco's money and fundraising. We are working hard to get new members for the Foundation and looking to hire a fundraiser. We are currently taking proposals for doing the Strategic Plan. We are looking to

have our plan align with the goals of the community and Emerge 2040. We are planning a Legislative Breakfast for Wednesday, August 26th which you are all invited to attend. Hoopla has gone live so please take advantage of this new service.

REPORT ABOUT THE BRANCHES (Ann Marie Pochedly)

Ann Marie is the Branch Coordinator and she wanted to share a little information about what is going on in the branches. She stated that all of the community rooms at the branches are used for programming but also open to the public. We are trying to offer services and programs specific to each branch and what their community is looking for. We now offer consistent programs at each of the branches. The local newspapers have given the branches a lot of publicity for the programs. They have made a lot of local connections for programs offered. They have received a grant of \$1,000 for program supplies.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS (Mary Rennie):

Overall circulation was up from June, 2014, with Edinboro seeing a 16% increase! The number of programs was stupendous increasing 27% from last June and the number of attendees was up 75%!

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT CONSULTANT (Tony Keck)

Tony stated that the Cochran Library is moving to a brand new building. They did local fundraising to build this new library. There is no news on the state budget to report. The Trustee Workshop at the IU is coming soon. We invited the Crawford County legislators to the Legislative Breakfast this year because of the boundary changes. Interviews for the State Librarian position are taking place.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES: None

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Your packet is full of newspaper clippings!

BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES:

There should be two sub-committees formed: Blasco Redesign and Strategic Plan. Joe Mineo will be part of both committees. It would be great if one or two board members attend these meetings to represent the board. Jackie Breakstone and Mary Scutella would like to participate in the Strategic Plan committee if they can. We hope to have both the strategic plan and the redesign completed by the end of the year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

The next Advisory Board meeting is August 20, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.