

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

-----  
**THURSDAY, September 17, 2015  
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Joe Mineo called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Dr. William Garvey, Elspeth Koehle, Christine Matheis, Mary Scutella.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Library: Mary Rennie, Executive Director; Tony Keck, District Consultant; Erin Wincek, Blasco Coordinator; Patrice Berchtold, Executive Assistant. Marion Gallivan, Friend's of the Library. Ed DiMattio, County Council.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Jackie Breakstone made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of Jul6 16, 2015. Kathleen Keys seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

**HEARING OF CITIZENS:** None.

**REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL LIAISON (Ed DiMattio):**

Ed stated that it is budget time and everyone knows that it will be a tough year because we are out of budget. The pay plan committee is moving forward. This committee was looking at pay scales and pay grades for the entire county. The EMTA Board will become a county authority. He explained how funding comes through the state and federal government and 2/3 from the county and 1/3 from the city. PennDOT has the final say regarding what EMTA does.

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY UPDATE (Marion Gallivan):**

There is a book collection on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. They have a Gannon fraternity helping with the sale. The Friends raised over \$3,000 for Erie Gives.

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

There is no major concern at this time with the budget. We should be okay moving money around to cover extra expenses in custodial and maintenance lines from savings in personnel lines.

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

Mary shared the re-design floor plan from Bostwick Design. They have the sections separated by areas to be changed. We have scheduled public meetings for Tues. 10/13 at 6:00pm and Fri. 10/16 at 10:00am in the Hirt Auditorium. The cost came in at 1.6 million. This plan gives back to the public a lot of space which has been turned into storage and break rooms. We are hoping to have final plans by the end of the year. We want to begin with the Business Component and Idea Lab once we receive approval from County Administration and County Council. We plan to remain open during all construction phases. We hope to begin a fundraising campaign through the Foundation the first of the year.

The Strategic Planning process has started. PANO is the company completing the process and two half day sessions have been scheduled for October 1<sup>st</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Joe Mineo will be able to attend the 10/1 meeting only so we need an alternate to attend the second meeting. Jackie Breakstone will attend the second meeting.

We are working with other groups to apply for an Economic Development Grant called the I6 Challenge. Including matching fund, it could amount to a million dollars over three years. The Library, along with the Innovation Collaborative is hoping to focus on culture building. The Idea Lab will be the hub to disseminate information and services. Mary spoke with Glenn Miller, the new State Librarian, about the Idea Lab and he was very interested. October 5<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the grant application submission and we are gathering letters of support. Joe would like a tour of the Blasco building, once the re-design is finalized (after a board meeting).

#### **STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS (Erin Wincek):**

Overall circulation for physical books went down in July, but went up in August. Declining book circulation is a national trend. We have added 40% more programs beginning in September, so we should see our program numbers soar. Our attendance has really grown. We also want to bring a lot of these programs out to the branches in January.

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

Tony stated that the Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup> and we are keeping the date, however, we have learned that State Representatives may be in session. A District Workshop will be held on October 2<sup>nd</sup> which is open to all board members. The theme is The Challenge of Change. It will be held from 9:00am to 3:00pm at Blasco. There is an \$11.50 charge for lunch.

The County Plan is beginning to be worked on. Meetings with the Independent Libraries will start in October. We are looking for the dollar amount to be the same as last year.

#### **REPORT OF COMMITTEES:** None

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

Your packet is full of newspaper clippings!

#### **BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES:** None

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Diane Papesch's first term is up in December. She would like to continue on the Board, so Joe will contact Doug Smith to gather the appropriate approval and paperwork.

We need a Nominating Committee for President and Vice President for next year. We need 1 name for each position.

Jackie and Joe need to look at the By-laws to see if there needs to be any changes.

**The next Advisory Board meeting is October 15, 2015.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.