

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

**THURSDAY, January 19, 2017
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mary Scutella called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Liz Allen, Daria Devlin, Kathleen Keys, Joe Mineo, Mary Scutella.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mary Frances Baugh, Elspeth Koehle, Diane Papesch, Trevor Pearson.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Library: Mary Rennie, Executive Director; Tony Keck, District Consultant; Patrice Berchtold, Administrative Officer II; Rebecca Long, IT Coordinator. Marion Gallivan, Friends of the Library.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Joe Mineo made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 15, 2016. Kathleen Keys seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Introductions were made for our two new members: Daria Devlin and Liz Allen. Welcome to you both and thank you for serving on the Library Advisory Board.

HEARING OF CITIZENS: None.

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

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY UPDATE (Marion Gallivan):

Marion stated that the Romance paperback book sale will be held February 9th through the 11th in the Admiral Room.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT (Mary Rennie):

We didn't receive a financial report because the county is in the process of closing out last year's books, which won't be completed until February. We made it through the budget process and the only line cut was our temporary staff line. We should be in good shape for this year.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Mary Rennie):

There are several priorities for 2017. The first being the design phase of the Blasco renovations. Mary met with Bostwick Design yesterday to look at finishes so that the bids can go out soon. We would like the renovations completed by the end of October. We are hoping to move quickly into phase 2, especially if we receive the Keystone grant.

The Erie Regional Library Foundation priorities are board development, fundraising and advocacy. Erie Wincek, who was the Blasco Coordinator, has accepted the position of Development Director for the Foundation. Her last day with us was January 6th and has started with the Foundation. Kris Huber, who was the Development Director, is now a Foundation board member.

We continue to work on all three phases of the Strategic Plan: collections, connections and capacity. We are working on a plan for participants for partnerships and also working on an internal and external

communications plan. We are continuing to look at how everything we do affects our collections. For capacity, we will continue to work on changing the view of the library and how staff are affected.

Rebecca Long, IT Coordinator, was introduced, and discussed our successful migration to Polaris, the library's operating system (ILS). All of the libraries in Erie County collections and all of the patron data is kept by the ILS system of Polaris. 1.6 million circulations across the county annually are kept by this system. All 12 locations were up and running by January 7th. It should be noted that switching to Polaris was a large cost savings to the county.

Mary stated that we were approached by Ruth Kogan from the Hurry Hill Foundation about having a literary landmark designation in Edinboro. A library needs to complete the application. Virginia Sorenson wrote "Miracles on Maple Hill" and Jan Woods has kept that legacy alive. We were selected for the designation so there will be a celebration reception and a plaque will be placed in the Edinboro library and on the bookmobile. This will all happen in May. The state is putting together a committee in conjunction with the Department of Labor and Industry and the Department of Economic Development regarding workforce development which will be held at the Blasco library in March.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS (Mary Rennie):

2016 was a phenomenal year: There were more than 560,000 visits and 1.3 million in circulation with 50,000 more items borrowed this year than last year. The number of library cards issued, 9,794 was a 50% increase over last year. More than 187,000 people utilized our public computers or wifi access. Programming saw a 45% increase and more than 32,000 people attended those programs, which is a 52% increase over 2015. We are very grateful to the Friends of the Library for their financial support for these programs.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT CONSULTANT (Tony Keck):

Tony mentioned that the district centers met in Warren about consolidation. Our district is one of two pilot projects studying the viability of working together or merging to offer better services. On February 7th the Governor will release his budget. It is our hope that we receive the same amount of money. Next Thursday Mary and Tony meet with Senator Laughlin regarding library initiatives and state aid. They may also talk about the gaming money; one million dollars of the library funding comes from gaming money along with the independent libraries receiving funding also.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES: None.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: Your packet is full of newspaper clippings from the past month.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

We have interviewed for the Blasco Coordinator position and Sheryl Thomas has been offered and accepted this position. Sheryl recently came to us from San Bernadino, California and is our Youth Services Manager. Therefore, that position will be posted as soon as possible.

Tony will have an update next meeting about any feedback on the cost of the e-book project with Crawford County.

Chanel Cook has been given Trevor's contact information to talk to him about the books for hospitals.

NEW BUSINESS:

Joe Mineo stated that he received a letter from a woman who is looking to move to Erie and is looking for a job. Joe turned this letter over to Mary today.

The next Advisory Board meeting is February 16, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.