

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

**THURSDAY, April 18, 2019
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library**

CALL TO ORDER:

Julie Boam called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Liz Allen, Julie Theiss-Boam, Heather Canfield, William Conway, Devi Subedi, Mary Ann Tempestini,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Felix Lohitai, Trevor Pearson, Martha Knuth.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Blane Dessy, Library Director, Sheryl Thomas, Assistant Director, Marcia Wilking, District Consultant; Deana Cooper, Business Office Manager; Carol Gettinger, President of the Friends, Gary Lee, citizen

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 21, 2019

Mary Ann Tempestini made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 21, 2019. William Conway seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

HEARING OF CITIZENS: Gary Lee, the Erie County Director of Administration introduced Blane Dessy as the new Library Director.

REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL LIAISON: None

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY UPDATE (Carol Gettinger):

April 13th the Friends had their Collection Book drive from 10-2pm. They acquired 3 truckloads of books for their June sale. There will be a Cookbook Sale in May from 5/9-5/11/19 in the Admiral Room. In addition to cookbooks there will be books on gardening and other misc. The Great American Book Sale will be held from June 9th-June 14th at McDowell Intermediate School. Cd and puzzle options will be available for purchase. The Annual meeting for the Friends will be June 24th. They will tour the Teen Space. They will review and update Bylaws. They are currently updating their Financial Policy.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT (Sheryl Thomas):

Sheryl reviewed the Financial Report ending March 31, 2019. She highlighted that a couple of budget lines show a higher percent in use such as periodicals and equipment maintenance. These percentages are due to annual renewals that generally occur during the beginning of the year.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Blane Dessy):

Blane introduced himself and gave his library background. See attached article from the Compendium. Blane went over the definition of an advisory board and what an asset it is to have an advisory board. He would like to visit the idea of a new agenda structure for the board. This would follow a consent agenda allowing time to discuss new strategic issues, new directions and a more rewarding experience. He will meet with Julie next week to discuss a new agenda and re-think the next series of board meetings. He would like to see more board development and engagement with activities such as the PALA conference this year.

Employment Changes and Issues (Sheryl Thomas)

- We will be posting for a full-time clerk next week for Blasco.
- Initial Interviews for a fulltime Makerspace Technician will begin Monday, April 29th. This is a 3 year grant position being funded by ECGRA through the Beehive Grant. This position will offer expertise and one on one help to patrons. They will assist Jude Shingle, our Idea Lab Librarian to help grow the space and increase collaboration with the surrounding universities.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS (Sheryl Thomas):

Circulation checkouts increased 2 months in a row from last year. Digital and WiFi use continue to climb. There will be a PA Redistricting meeting in the Peninsula room this evening from 4-7:30. You can find more information on the Draw the Lines website.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT CONSULTANT (Marcia Wilking):

- **District**
 - DLC this spring will be the first week of May. Both Blane and Marcia will be attending.
 - Meeting with Sue went well in late March. I expect more news after the DLC.
 - Budget was passed at yesterday's DAC meeting. Signature sheets are being collected to send to the State in May. Abby will be funded another year.
 - Erate – Libraries receiving upgraded internet connections in July. Most all locations have doubled to 150 mb except Millcreek. All district are almost 10x faster than previous year's contract. This will help work with Heritage for the online local history collection.
- **State News**
 - The move is still in process, but communication has not been compromised
 - Anne visited the district today. She toured Meadville, Cochranon, Albion Millcreek and Blasco.
- **District Libraries News**
 - Springboro has 5 silver stars in PA Forward (Erie was just awarded 3)
 - Meadville's MakerLab is up and running and is slightly patterned off the Idea Lab.
- **Training Opportunities**
 - Self-defense – May 1 in Titusville.
 - Financial Best Practices – May 14 Grove City, PA
 - Library Island – June 4 in Grove City. This will be scenarios and strategic planning. Matt Finch will lead this training and is open to District library employees and board. Will be opening it up to County libraries.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES: none

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

There are multiple newspaper clippings and articles included in the board packet.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Blane

He is looking for strategic ways to keep the Advisory board engaged with the library. Possibilities could be, continuing education such as training webinars. He would like one of the monthly meetings to include

TAB (Teen Advisory Board) to get their perspective and ideas for the library. This would occur this summer after school is out.

PALA- Both Abby Zielinski and Maggie Ignasiak's programs for PALA were accepted. In lieu of Staff Training Day in October, the library is working with PALA to get a group discount for the day. Blane would like to send members of the Advisory Board as well as County Council liaison, Kyle Foust. Local tour ideas are being discussed. Examples would be wine and lighthouse tours. Ideas are needed for the conference store. This would be local businesses.

The next Advisory Board meeting is May 23, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:55p.m.