

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

THURSDAY, June 20, 2019
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library

CALL TO ORDER:

Julie Boam called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. NO QUORUM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Liz Allen, Julie Boam, William Conway, Mary Ann Tempestini

MEMBERS ABSENT: Felix Lohitai, Devi Subedi Heather Canfield, Trevor Pearson, Martha Knuth

OTHERS PRESENT:

Blane Dessy (Library Director), Sheryl Thomas (Assistant Director), Alyssa Johnson (Administrative Officer II); Carol Gettinger (President of the Friends), Jude Shingle (ECPL Idea Lab Manager), Patrick Moran (ECPL Idea Lab Makerspace Technician).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 23, 2019

NO QUORUM. Minutes will be approved via electronic vote.

HEARING OF CITIZENS: None

REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL LIAISON: None

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY UPDATE (Carol Gettinger):

The Friends shared that they enjoyed a very successful and busy Great American Book Sale, which ran June 9-14. She expressed that the group is happy with the renewed location at McDowell Intermediate High School. While official counts are still being tallied, they estimate that around \$43,000 was raised through this year's event. Julie Boam remarked that the sale helps to put the books "back in the hands of people" and keep them out of waste. Carol shared that several book dealers have even attended from Cleveland and Buffalo, resulting in larger dollar amount sales. At the conclusion of the sale, an ad is placed on Craigslist for individuals to collect the remaining items. The Friends start with a Zero balance at the beginning of each sale year. This year, around 70,000 items were offered through the sale. Julie expressed the Library Advisory Board's gratitude to the Friends group for hosting this fundraiser.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT (Blane Dessy):

Blane reviewed the budget, noting that all spending is basically on target with no "red flags" to report. "We are where we're supposed to be" and that the staff is doing a good job of managing the Library's funds.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Blane Dessy):

Blane called attention to several initiatives in place:

- ICE HOUSE project- Kaitlyn Labrozzi (Iroquois Branch Manager) was involved with an ICE HOUSE project that is now moving toward implementation. The project will place social workers in the library to assist our patrons in crisis.
- ECPL is soft-launching the e-card 6/21, and is hosting a public press event on July 10th. Blane noted that the e-card launch is a "real leap forward" for the library. More information will follow regarding the event.

- Newspaper Digitization: Heritage Room has been researching the cost of digitizing the Newspapers contained in the heritage room collection. Our current digitization ends in 1995. The original plan was to digitize Erie Times News (and its earlier iterations), but County Council advised that the entire ~26 newspaper collection of the Heritage Room be rolled into this effort. Our team is researching the revised cost of this undertaking, and wishes to collaborate with the Erie Regional Library Foundation to launch fundraising efforts. Liz Allen remarked on the usefulness of the digitization efforts, and how fortunate the Erie community is to have this resource.
- Blasco Master Plan- Bostwick sent a revised proposal for their work on phases III and IV of the Master Plan. The initial proposal was high and the firm was asked to sharpen their pencils. The proposal is now in review at the county solicitor's office. It was noted that plans III and IV will require significant fundraising to complete. Blane suggested that we have a short period of time for doing updating to the master plan—as the plan was last reviewed in 2016, we want ensure it still reflects the best interests of our library.
- Bookmobile Study: Sheryl is continuing work on the Bookmobile Study, to be completed in July. The study hopes to reveal the future of *the bookmobile* and to replace the vehicle itself while re-envisioning the service. Blane shared that he intends to use the financial information from this report to request a new bookmobile for the 2020 budget.
- Collections Data: Anitra Gates (Tech Services Manager) has been investigating our available data to determine the overall health of our collection. Blane has instructed the team to begin using the collections data to inform the future decisions on acquisitions budget. One specific area of concern is our Science and Technology genres, as these areas become outdated much faster than other genres. Data backed decisions with acquisitions spending will help keep our collection up to date.
- Beehive: Met with Edinboro and Behrend teams already. EUP has accepted ECPL as a client under their *Strategic Branding* purview.
- Innovation Collaborative: Blane was approached by Beth Zimmer of the Innovation Collaborative about taking over 3 of their current programs: Collegiate Innovation, Co-Starters, and Entrepreneur Leadership Training. Blane will follow-up with Beth on Friday June 21st to gain more information about program financials, workload, and staff requirements before determining our involvement.
- Met twice with Erie Arts & Culture for partnership opportunities.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION
- Library Staff is involved with Werkbot to beef up our current social media strategy.
- Ice House: Further discussion of Ice House Project to place social workers in the library. Erie is replicating a nationwide library trend to bring social services to patrons in need. Blane reviewed the roles of the new social workers: Certified Peer Specialists and Social Work Interns. There will be 2 Certified Peer Specialists, working roughly 30 hours per week at Blasco. Intern schedules will vary as universities have already done the majority of their fall placements. The program will pilot at Blasco, and be observed for potential to scale out to our library branches. Julie questioned whether this service should be advertised or offered discreetly. Marcia offered to investigate with other libraries to see how they make services known. Marcia also remarked that the service providers will have an entry in our Polaris-Library Catalog system so that individuals searching related terms will see a listing for the CSP/ Social Work Intern.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS (Sheryl Thomas):

The statistic reports were sent in advance to members, and Blane remarked that we are doing well on all major metrics.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT CONSULTANT (Marcia Wilking):

- District Library Center (DLC)
 - Abby, the District Educational Programmer's contract has been renewed for another year: July 2019-June 2020. The new contract includes time for collaboration with ECPL library staff to help leverage talents and programs that are being developed by ECPL staff and by Abby.
 - Five directors in the district are working on their retirement succession planning for the next 1-6 months.
- State
 - The signature page for the 2018 annual report filed in April need to be re-filed. Thank you Julie and Felix for getting that signed so we could re-submit it. (Only the signature page needed updates)
 - An update to the 2019 annual Library report has been announced: website visits. ECPL is ready for this, and we're working on getting everyone ready for this question.
- SNOE (Seneca, New Castle, Oil Creek, Erie Districts)
 - The formalization of the existing framework of our cooperation with the three adjacent districts has been finalized. We're planning a press release in the fall and some state-wide recognition. More updates to come.
- Advocacy
 - Increase for library funding likely to pass the house however the support in the senate is very unsure. Please contact your PA Senator asking them to support library funding.
 - The next Legislative Breakfast will be held in the spring of 2020.
- District Libraries News
 - Shontz Library in Conneaut Lake is still looking for a replacement director after Diane passed away unexpectedly in April.
 - Corry Public Library has hired a new director.
- The PALA conference registration for October 13-16 is opening shortly. Blane encourages everyone to attend. Marcia presented volunteer opportunities for individuals at the conference.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS: (Jude Shingle, Patrick Moran)

Idea Lab manager, Jude Shingle was invited to speak to the Library Advisory Board with a snapshot of where the Idea Lab currently stands, our plans going forward, and the involvement in the Beehive. Jude began by introducing Patrick Moran, our newly hired Makerspace Technician. The position was grant-funded through the Beehive network, and will help expand the capacity of the Idea Lab at large.

- Patrick gave a brief history of himself and expressed enthusiasm for joining our team.
- Jude directed attention to the handouts included in the agenda, and remarked that the Idea Lab is now at its 2 year anniversary, which is an excellent time to make observations. The Beehive grant affords us the opportunity to strategize.
- Current observations lead to recognizing 2 main categories of Idea Lab patrons: "Power Crafters" and "Entrepreneurs/Innovators"
- ECPL Idea Lab is unique in its makerspace, in that we focus on adult makers versus a children's space. The Idea Lab also operates at over 50 service hours during the week, above library trends.
- Jude also observed that innovation and entrepreneurship can be viewed as a social service to lift up underserved populations.
- The Idea Lab Phases: Basic Level of service will be completed by end of September. This phase involves staff development so that all patrons can expect a standardized level of service. Curated Maker Projects will be in place by the end of the year which allow for "hands on experience" by

patrons, empowering them to feel confident in uncertain tasks and their maker abilities. Fabrication and Innovation Literacy involves a playlist of frequently requested projects and resources to enhance a patron's knowledge of specific Idea Lab equipment and maker processes.

- Role in the Beehive: Library is already the community hub, we will be the entry point for Beehive participants. Our role will be to assess the current level of the participant and give them clear directive and meaningful connections so they may progress through the other Beehive Partners. Discussion with the board followed. Jude asked the members to begin answering: "Who in our community can benefit?"
- Marcia shared that the District Programmer will begin including Idea Lab projects as part of her available classes, beginning with Cricut Maker.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES: none

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

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

BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES: none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

May meeting minutes will be emailed to board members and approved through electronic vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

The next Advisory Board meeting is July 18, 2019. Blane will not be able to attend, Sheryl will present on his behalf.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:05p.m.