



Library Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, July 15
ZOOM
12:00 pm

Minutes

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 12:01 PM

Members Present: Trevor Pearson, Mary Ann Tempestini, Martha Knuth, Liz Allen, Kara Murphy, Quyen Aoh

Members Absent: Julie Boam, Bill Conway, Annie Rosenthal

Others Present: Jessica Church, Alyssa Johnson, Deana Cooper, Sheryl Thomas

Approval of Minutes – June 17, 2021

Minutes were approved as written. Motion by Mary Ann Tempestini, second by Martha Knuth.

Library Reports

Report of Acting Director, Sheryl Thomas

- Acting Director, Sheryl Thomas, shared that the programming committee and county administration have approved the return to in-person programming. This is expected to resume in September.
- A “Stop the Bleed” basic first aid training is being offered to staff. This was discovered as a need during the safety audit of the Idea Lab.
- 15 staff members are attending an American Sign Language for Library Staff training.
- The state-wide Chat with a Librarian service is now live. ECPL librarians will respond to inquiries from across the state during our business hours; patrons will be able to submit reference questions and receive responses from libraries state-wide.
- Focus groups were conducted surrounding Millcreek Branch planning. Though virtual attendance was low, we received over 300 responses from online surveys.
- The Poetry Anthology project is underway and currently accepting submissions.
- Newsbank approval is still pending. The Finance Committee meeting is later today, if advanced there will be a Council vote on Tuesday. Please relay any interest from your constituents to your council members.

Review of Financial Report

Deana shared there was not much to remark from the latest budget report. We are roughly 46% expended so right on track for spending, but revenue is down ~25%. We are not expected to make up the lost revenue in this year.

Statistical and Other Reports

Reviewed circulation stats from agenda.

Report of District Consultant

Fiscal Year

The District wrapped up its 2020-2021 fiscal year on June 30. The new 2021-2022 cycle began on July 1. The Office of Commonwealth Libraries has opened up the report for District Library Centers (Blasco) in which districts can input their statistics and financials. This report will be due no later than August 10.

State Budget & Library Allocations

Pennsylvania passed its 2021-2022 budget on time. All four library-related line items—Public Library Subsidy (allocations for public libraries); State Library (Office of Commonwealth Libraries); Library Services for Visually Impaired & Disabled (LAMP: Library of Accessible Media for Pennsylvanians); and Library Access (Access PA/POWER Library)—should receive level funding for 2021-2022, meaning they'll receive the same amount acquired in the previous year. The items are all found under the Department of Education. Distribution timelines have yet to be released.

There will be a one-time allocation to state-aided libraries with funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Toward Gigabit: This includes ECPL and the independent public libraries in Erie County.

Toward Gigabit: Libraries are invited to participate in the Toward Gigabit program through Kinber, a broadband company for statewide initiatives for network based education research. Staff can participate in practical, educational webinars on technology. Libraries will also have the opportunity to receive site visits and reports for network assessments.

Board and Committee Reports

Report of County Council Liaison

none

Report of Friends and ERLF

none

Unfinished Business

none

New Business

- Board discussed the opportunity to resume in-person meetings. Resolution was to adjust the bylaws to meet at rotating branches quarterly at which the location will give a staff, with remaining meetings held virtually. Motion made by Quyen, second by Kara. All aye.

Adjournment

Liz motioned to adjourn at 12:18 pm, Mary Ann second.