



Library Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, September 15, 2022

ZOOM: 983 3133 2641 | Passcode: 821018

12:00 pm

MINUTES

Members Present: Trevor Pearson, Mary Ann Tempestini, Liz Allen, Ann Rosenthal, Martha Knuth

Members Absent: Bill Conway, Quyen Aoh, Julie Boam, Kara Murphy

Others Present: Deana Cooper, Sheryl Thomas, Nicole Inan, Jessica Church, Sarah Baugh, Alyssa Johnson, Jessica Stefano

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes – August minutes

Minutes were approved by motion of Mary Ann and seconded by Liz. All aye.

3. Library Reports

a. Library Staff Reports- Sheryl Thomas

- Sheryl reported on the potential increase in book challenges and requests for consideration. With the topic of challenges and various things being removed from collections across the nation we want to touch on our process with handling book challenges. As banned book week approaches the library may see and receive book challenges for items in our collection. The library embraces the “freedom to read” statement from ALA. When a challenge occurs, the library has a policy and procedure in place to work through the challenges and decide if the challenge has merit. Patrons can visit a branch and fill out a form or electronically submit through our chat. Patrons receive the Collection Development Policy which outlines our process of purchasing materials. They then fill out the request for consideration which asks a variety of questions regarding the material in question. Upon review with the Collection Development Committee, a response is sent patron with the library rationale as to why it is in the collection etc. and usually why it will remain in the collection. Trevor reminded Sheryl that committees are part of the board and they could help participate on the Collection Development committee if needed.

b. Report of Director

Report of the Director- Sheryl Thomas

- Karen is at ARSL conference in TN. learning ways to engage and support our more rural smaller libraries. She will be returning on Sunday.
- Sheryl introduced Jessica Stefano as our new Iroquois Branch Manager. Jessica introduced herself and her programming background and her mission for the Iroquois Branch library.
- Personnel update- Dana Nahas has accepted the position of Youth Services Librarian at Blasco. She previously held a library clerk position at Iroquois. She brings a new energy to the department and we are excited to have her at Blasco. Her clerk position is currently

- posted. Other open positions posted is a full time Librarian position. This position is the Emerging Technologies Librarian that oversees Idea Lab programming. If you know anyone who would be interested, both positions are posted until 9/28.
- Tammy Blount, the Teen Librarian will be attending the Young Adult (YALSA) symposium in Maryland the first week of November. She will learn about upcoming and best practices for Teen services and programming.
 - This past Sunday, the 911 Memorial occurred outside of Blasco. This ceremony has been held at Blasco for a number of years.
 - Andrew Miller is wrapping up the ECGRA grant application for the Beehive Innovation Network. This grant funds the programming and expansion of the Idea Lab. We are asking ECGRA for a matching grant that is supported by the Friends, Foundation and Erie Insurance.
 - The library recently received a large donation of boxes of Crayola crayons from Erie Insurance. These will be used at all locations for children's programming. Nice to on Erie Insurance's radar for donations.
 - New display of hats made in Erie. Display is located in the galleria on the second floor of Blasco. Jenny Martin the new Digital Collections Librarian has created the display with a variety of historical hats borrowed from the Hagan History Center along with many hats made at Kraus's downtown. Display includes advertisements from Kraus's along with a timeline showing the history of the hats. It's a wonderful done display that will be up until the end of November.
 - The library recently worked with the Office of Children and Youth(OCY) to repurpose a children's activity and games computer (AWE) previously located at the Iroquois library. The computer gives children an educational outlet at one of the shelters run by OCY.
 - Anitra Gates and Andrew Miller are in Buffalo today presenting at the American Association for State and Local History Conference. They are discussing how they use grant funding for local history and preservation projects.
 - Reminder- Alyssa will be hanging out after the meeting to discuss Outreach in your districts.
 - Budget will be discussed at the next meeting on what is being presented to county council. Sheryl gave a rundown of library asks such as two new positions (Teen Librarian and Idea Lab Library Assistant) and the County funding of the Makerspace Technician previously funded by an ECGRA grant. Another personnel proposal was the increase of the part time Housing Authority position to a full time position. This position expansion rests on the Housing Authority willing to increase their funding to help offset the position costs. Other areas of increase revolve around the increase for programming funds surrounding the Idea Lab. With the ECGRA expiring, funding will be needed if grant is not awarded.
- Martha inquired about the intake of conferences and how she feels they are a great idea to get different ideas and perspectives from other library organizations along with sharing our ideas. Sheryl discussed the coincidence of the numerous conferences occurring all at once along with the standard conferences attend each year such as PALA.

c. Review of Financial Report

2023 Budget clarification. Based on meeting rotation, budget preparation wasn't complete at the time of the Advisory board meeting. Process from Finance was delayed and changes were still in the works. We will supply administration proposal the next meeting. Not much to report on current budget. Reimbursements have started coming in from ARPA funds.

d. Statistical and Other Reports

Sheryl reviewed the statistics report and pointed out we continue to see upward trend. Lincoln checkouts for August are the highest on record. We are steadily climbing back to pre-Pandemic

figures. Digital continue to climb. All locations are seeming increases. Historically, fall tends to see a decrease with children going back to school and the end of summer.

d. [Report of District Consultant](#)

See Agenda for report.

e. [Report of County Council Liaison](#)

None

f. [Report of ERLF-](#)

Foundation is holding a Banned Book Online Trivia event next September 19-23rd. Goal is online engagement around banned books and get patrons to support the “Freedom to Read,” and get more patrons to read the banned books. They will post trivia questions every day and the first 2 correct responses will receive a prize. Prizes will be banned books.

g. [Report from the Friends of the Library](#)

Book drive coming up this Saturday from 10am -2pm. This is a drive up book drive where you don't need to get out of your car. This book drive occurs semi-annually. Another one is held in the spring. Mystery & Fiction Book Sale October 20-22nd at Blasco Library Admiral Room. Nicest quality books received are sold during this sale.

Really successful Erie Gives Day

Upcoming signing of new café vendor lease. Coming soon.

4. Unfinished Business

a. [Established committees-](#)

Nothing to report

b. [Meeting rotation-](#)

Trevor brought up meeting in-person for October based on bylaw rotation.

Deana pointed out that the Friends Book Sale is going on so the Admiral Room is occupied.

Discussion to meet in-person for November meeting. A survey will follow asking who is available.

5. New Business

a. [Nominating Committee-](#)

Trevor needs to appoint a nominating committee for the 2023 slate of officers. After discussion he will reach out via email to appoint the committee. This is Trevor's last term on the board. Group photo was discussed along with its whereabouts.

b. [Voter registration-](#)

Martha asked a question regarding voter registration information and the libraries. She saw in the District report where Governor Wolf discussed his executive order on voter registration and how to acquire voter information. Sheryl informed her that the library currently holds voter information available to all patrons along with mail in registration. Voter registration tables for both parties are allowed at the library as long as they honor both party affiliations.

6. Appendix

a. [Announcements](#)

Outreach Committee meeting today following board meeting-

Mary Ann made motion to adjourn the meeting. Liz seconded. 12:49pm