



Library Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, August 17, 2023

Millcreek Branch Library

MINUTES

Members Present: Adam Groves, Quyen Aoh, Kara Murphy, Mary Ann Tempestini,

Members Absent: Ann Rosenthal

Others Present: Sheryl Thomas, Karen Pierce, Deana Cooper, Diane Chido, Doug Smith, A. J. Rao, Andre Horton, Mary Rennie

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by President at 12:04 p.m. Went around room to introduce board and other's present.

2. Approval of Minutes – July 15, 2023

Motion to approve by Mary, second by Adam. Minutes pass.

3. Library Reports

a. Report of Director

Complete report was in agenda. Karen elaborated further on Youth Librarian transition to Branches and how Bayfront construction will effect Blasco access and parking. Mary Tempestini advised to send out information to Blasco patrons once plan is finalized.

b. Statistical and Other Reports-Sheryl

Statistics provided in agenda and reviewed.

c. Review of Financial Report- Deana

Financial report provided as attachment, No concerns at this time.

d. Review of District Consultant

Provided in agenda. District Consultant not present. Karen reviewed report. She also briefly discussed potential delivery to Crawford County in 2024.

4. Board and Committee Reports

a. Report of County Council Liaison

Councilman Horton expressed his concern regarding his board appointee not being allowed to vote at last meeting due to her term expiration. Reviewed bylaws and expressed opinion that no bylaws supersede Home Rule Charter and Administrative Code. County Executive does not fill seats on Board.

He reported he put out a resolution on the Council agenda to prohibit censorship of reading materials in the Erie County Library system in regard to the Pride Display being removal in June. He learned there was no policy and wanted to know under what precedent it was removed if no policy exists? Erie County has a policy called the Erie Human Relations Commission. When you formulate your policy, you will align with this commission and along with federal alignment.

Councilman Horton responded to Quyen's question regarding bylaws and preparation. County Director of Administration, Doug Smith recommended that the Board have a copy of the Administrative Code while reviewing current bylaws. They may very well fall in line with the current code. He also recommended reaching out to the County Solicitor with any questions and to send them for review.

b. Report of ERLF- Diane Chido

Discussed capitol campaign for funding Millcreek Branch at last ERLF Board meeting. Reviewed applicants for new development director. Discussed Erie Gives Day contributions. Discussed ideas for fundraising. Cannot do much until announcement is made regarding location. Anticipated announcement in the fall. Once announcement is made, they have questions for Millcreek and County before they can start. Discussed Blasco Children's Library renovation. Currently have 2019 Master Plan but needs updated. Plan to have a Campaign Kick Off and invite Board to attend.

c. Report of Friends of the Library

No report

5. Unfinished Business

a. Discussion to move September meeting to new time and date.

Kara motioned to move September meeting to September 28, 2023 at noon via zoom. Adam second.

b. Board appointment update.

Annie will be re-appointed to Board per Councilman Horton. Recommendations were sent to Council for vacant positions.

Previous emails were sent to council in November 2022, February and April of this year requesting Board appointees. The Board will be informed as soon as the Library is notified of any new appointees.

c. Library display policy

The Library has partnered with an national organization. Welcoming America. They will provide a consultant to work with us to develop a policy based on inclusion and equity. Once we have a policy written we will present it to the board. Have tried to find similar display policies from of Libraries but cannot find an example to follow. Adam provided Clearwater Library System display policy for review. Adam asked if display policy will be just for formal displays or include informal. Karen believes it will include all displays, especially since not all location have larger display units and rely on tops of shelves to display materials.

6. New Business

a. 2024 Budget review

Karen explained the budget is operational expenses only since we do not have a contract for AFSCME employees. Wages and fringes are still being bargained. However, operational costs will increase about 100K. No major changes or departmental asks for 2024. Some items to note is that Blasco will be getting an armed guard effective September 1. This will be a shared cost amongst the Library, Maritime Museum, Planning Department and Veteran Affairs. Other asks include carpeting the stairs at Blasco due to tripping hazards, and window replacement for Lincoln Branch.

Kara asked what prompted the idea of armed guard. Karen gave a few examples of incidents though there have been numerous incidents in the last years. Staff have been assaulted and staff safety is concerned.

b. Bylaw Review-

A committee is being assembled to review bylaws. Quyen plans to meet with Karen to discuss for next meeting.

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mary second by Kara.1:31p

8. Appendix

a. [Announcements](#) – **Thursday, September 28, 2023 @ noon via zoom**

September 15 -Erie Art Museum is having a Gallery Night and the Library is participating. We are looking for volunteers.

b. [Public comment](#)-

Mary Rennie attended as member of public noted that public comments should be toward the top of agenda. She voiced her concerns regarding display policy. ALA has extensive info on their site .Councils libraries seriously and what they can do and what to avoid. Displays should represent community. Policy should reflect collection development policy. Concerned Welcoming America is too heavily on immigration and may not include marginalized communities such as LGTBQ. Things to consider; libraries need to be inclusive and represent their community, they are not here to push an agenda. She advised to never take down a display based off a complaint.