



Library Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Via zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8056949401?pwd=cXRyUFJxTkJodzUvcGNVeWt2TGy0QT09>

MINUTES

Members Present: Adam Groves, Quyen Aoh, Kara Murphy, Mary Ann Tempestini, Mari Howells, Mohamed Almorsy, Annie Rosenthal

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Karen Pierce, John Euliano, Deana Cooper, Jessica Church, Patrick Miller, A. J. Rao, Correy Connelly, Andrew Miller, Jim Dible, Dana Nahas, Mary Rennie, Freda Tepfer, Anna McCartney, Issy Lawrie, Anna C, Paige

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by President at 12:03.

2. Approval of Minutes – September 28, 2023

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

3. Public Comment (Limit to 10 minutes)

No comments

4. Library Reports

a. Staff Report- Alyssa Johnson - Outreach

Alyssa gave a power point presentation on Outreach at the Library. Power point provided to LAB.

b. Report of the Director

Report provided in agenda.

Quyen recused herself from any conversation regarding the Gannon Water Research & Education Center since she is a faculty member at Gannon University.

Karen reviewed the move of Children’s move to the branches. Two librarians have relocated to the branches to build branch programming and collect data at least through construction. She is hoping to have enough data showing the need to expand the staff of Youth Services by two positions. She anticipates increase Blasco use when the Children’s renovation is complete along with the Bayfront project. She wants to have enough data to take to Council and ask for two more positions.

Karen answered questions from Quyen and Kara regarding where the children’s librarians are located and how programming will change with the shift of librarians. Karen informed board that there are five Youth Services Librarians, three at Blasco, one that rotates between Edinboro and Iroquois and one that rotates between Millcreek and Lincoln. There is no programming being cut throughout the library system. Some programs are shifting to Branch locations. Prior to shift only one Family Storytime was offered by librarians at branches per week. The remaining programs were put on by Branch Managers, not the librarians. With the shift, there will

be an expansion of programming at the branches. Branch Managers will continue to offer a variety of programs as well. Due to union contracts, Librarians can only be scheduled every other Saturday, which limits weekend programming. Per union contract, library clerks are not permitted to be scheduled to lead programming. Adam asked if Blasco programming will remain the same or increase? Karen is not adding any additional programming to the plates of the two librarians at Blasco. What you will see is some programs that were offered at Blasco will now be offered at the branches.

Kara-asked if plan is to cut back on programming during PennDOT construction? With PennDOT project, Blasco will see both Youth and Adult programming cutbacks. It is unknown at this time when this will occur. All decisions will be made once PennDOT has begun construction and when it impacts the library.

Quyen suggested outreach programming in footprint area of Blasco when construction begins.

Karen meets with Youth Services Department at end of December to discuss feedback from the shift to branches. Tops will include what they found that works, barriers and suggestions for spring programming.

Great Lakes Research Center- Karen asked Mari, Kara and Adam is they had any questions or observations they wish to share following the tour they had at Blasco for the new research center.

Mari- had a positive experience and is of the opinion that libraries need to change with the times. Circulation has been down since 2017 so why not try something thing different. She is in favor of partnering with other organizations.

Karen believes it will be a positive experience and if she thought differently, she would have shared with both County Council and County Administration. She believes this will enhance our library and the resources for the Community. This not only increases programming opportunities for the Community but will allow another voice (Gannon) to speak up on behalf of the library regarding the parking situation and infrastructure challenges we face down on the Bayfront.

Kara feels much better after walking through and seeing where it will be. Wished there had been more time to get public feedback but understands that was not in the Library's control. Sees a lot of potential in terms of programming, bringing new patrons to the library and engaging school groups. Sees a lot of potential for the library.

Adam brought up that the butterfly conservatory may have an admittance fee since there is currently no funding. Karen, Council Members and Advisory Board members all expressed concern that fees should not be incurred within a free public space. Karen did point out to Gannon that it would be disruptive and the library is one of the last places public can go free of charge. Karen will fight any kind of charge.

Staff Development Day- the library had a staff development day on October 9. Antonio Howard was the keynote speaker, which then was followed up by a staff lead painting of a mural in the staff hall at Blasco. Terrific opportunity to work as a team and create something together.

Display Policy- is in the hands of the solicitor.

c. Statistical and Other Reports-

Statistics provided in agenda.

d. Review of Financial Report- Deana

Financial report provided as attachment and reviewed. Anticipated budget is on target.

Review of District Consultant

Provided in agenda. Jessica provided an update regarding state and the process for applying. Would like to meet with board at a different time to discuss state aid and how it works.

Adam recommended District Library Center 101 work session. Review standards.

5. Board and Committee Reports

a. Report of County Council Liaison

No report

b. Report of ERLF- Diane Chido, Patrick Miller

Diane introduced Patrick as new Development Director. Will be new liaison for board. Diane will no longer attend.

Children's renovation is on hold until word from PennDOT.

Millcreek project- awaiting location announcement. Waiting to get started on campaign.

c. Report of Friends of the Library

No report

6. Unfinished Business

a. Distribution of Bylaws-

Bylaws were sent to all members for review. There were many changes that need run through District Consultant to ensure we are in line with state standards and that we are not removing anything that needs to stay. Use the month to review and add suggestions. Final review and vote in November.

Quyen asked to add a section regarding library responsibilities to the board.

b. 2024 Board Meeting dates and times-

Quyen brought up changing meetings to mostly zoom and have biannually meetings at branches.

From last meeting, midday meetings worked best.

Annie recommended that meetings to Mondays at noon. Quyen stated they would keep third week of month.

Asked that in-person meetings be held either beginning or end of day.

7. New Business

a. Presentation of Slate of Officers

Nominations for Board Officers- Mary Ann Tempestini

- President-Quyen Aoh, nominated by Adam, second by Kara
- Vice President- Adam Groves, nominated by Kara
- Secretary- Kara Murphy, nominated by Quyen.

Mary Ann motioned that slate be presented at November meeting for vote. Seconded by Quyen. Motion approved.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mary, second by Mohamed. 12:57p.

9. Appendix

- ### a. Announcements – Thursday, November 16 at noon. In-person at Blasco room 219.