

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD**

**THURSDAY, March 19, 2009
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library**

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice President Jeanine McCreary called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeanine McCreary, Sr. Kathleen Blair, Pete Ogden, Mary Theiss, Barbara Wingerter.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kathy DeSante, Helene Grande, Amos Goodwine, Susan Ottaway.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Library: Margaret Stewart, Library Director, Joan Duke, Blasco Coordinator, Diane Chlebus

Friends of the Library: Bob Gallivan

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Barbara Wingerter moved to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2009.

Sr. Kathleen Blair seconded the motion.

Approved by unanimous vote.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT (Robert Gallivan)

The next book collection for the Friends of the Library is scheduled for Saturday, 3/28/09 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Blasco Library. An additional collection day is scheduled for 5/9/09. The annual cookbook and gardening book sale will be held May 7, 8 and 9.

Bob announced the Friends of the Library Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Day is on Saturday, 5/9/09, beginning at 10:00 a.m. All board members are invited to attend.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT: (Margaret Z. Stewart)

Margaret reviewed the financial report ending 2/28/09. This year, funding for ECPL's temporary staff has been greatly reduced. In order to cover wages for per diem staff, Margaret has requested that funds be transferred from the overtime expense line to the temporary staff lines. The shortage in wages for temporary staff (subs) will prove to be problematic since several employees are on long term medical leaves and per diem employees are required to cover their absences. Jeanine questioned what the actual shortfall is and Margaret explained it totals approximately \$150,000, including loss of state aid and various projected budget line item shortages.

Margaret serves on a County committee that is looking at ways to reduce expenses while maintaining services as 2009 is proving to be a difficult year financially. As for the library, ECPL is considering reducing Sunday hours and eliminating some bookmobile stops.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: (Margaret Z. Stewart)

U.S. Census Bureau ~ 2010 Census

The library will partner with the U.S. Census Bureau and provide meeting space for training and testing applicants. The kick-off press conference is scheduled for Thursday, 3/26/09 at 10:00 a.m. and all board members are invited to attend.

WQLN Library Medley

Because of continuing staff shortages and the lack of staff necessary to prepare for programming, the library is examining its entire outreach schedule for 2009. It was determined that library is no longer able to participate in WQLN's Library Medley program and the last scheduled broadcast will be this May.

Programming

Margaret was pleased to announce that on Saturday, May 16, 2009 Hank Jones, a nationally known and highly respected lecturer on genealogical subjects, will present a Spring Genealogical Seminar. This program, presented by ECPL and the Erie Society for Genealogical Research, is partially sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS: (Joan Duke)

Joan referred to the February 2009 circulation report. It indicates that overall, circulation has increased by 5%. Edinboro's circulation has increased by almost 70%. Patrons visiting the Blasco Library have increased by 5%.

Use of the library's computer lab and Internet access continue to increase. The computer classes sponsored by the FOL are increasingly popular.

REPORT OF DISTRICT CONSULTANT: (Margaret Stewart for Anthony Keck)

At next month's board meeting, Tony and Margaret will review the logo, slogan and other handouts for the recently completed District branding project promoting libraries in the Erie/Crawford area.

Mary Theiss inquired if the board could assist in promoting the library and suggested more publicity be planned advertising library programming. Jeanine McCreary suggested that Tutor.com, a live online tutoring program, be promoted through visits to area schools, explaining to teachers and student the benefits of this service. Sr. Kathleen encouraged publicizing the Power Library and suggested classes be offered showing patrons how to access the databases.

Bob Gallivan noted that the FOL would most likely be willing to add additional computer instruction classes. It was suggested that a class in social networking be considered. Margaret mentioned that the library is in the process of developing a Facebook page.

Unfinished Business

None at this time.

New Business

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT - Adjourned at 12:48 p.m.