

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

**THURSDAY, April 17, 2008
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library**

CALL TO ORDER:

SUSAN OTTAWAY, Board President, called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Susan Ottaway, Sr. Kathleen Blair, Kathy DeSante, Helene Grande, Pete Ogden, Mary Theiss, Barbara Wingerter.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Amos Goodwine, Jeanine McCreary.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Library: Margaret Stewart, Library Director, Joan Duke, Anthony Keck
Friends of the Library; Bob Gallivan

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Pete Ogden moved to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2008, meeting.

Mary Theiss seconded the motion.

APPROVED by unanimous vote.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT

Bob announced the Cookbook & Gardening Book Sale is scheduled for May 8 from Noon – 6 pm, May 9 from 9 am – 5 pm and May 10 from 9 am – 3 pm. The next book collection is on Saturday, May 10 from 10 am – 2 pm and the Great American Book Sale is scheduled from June 8-13, 2008, at the Villa Maria Center Gymnasium.

Bob attended the Trustee Institute on 4/11 and 4/12/08 in Mars, PA. The sessions were very informative and Bob highly recommended attendance at future meetings.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT: (Margaret Stewart)

Margaret summarized the financial report ending March 2008. Transfers to cover overages will be completed this month.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: (Margaret Stewart)

ECPL continues to gather e-mail addresses to implement notification for patron holds. Blasco Library now has a self-service fax machine in the public copy room and patrons can use their credit cards for fees for transmitting the fax. This month, library managers proctored 14 tests for citizens.

Library Administration has been busy completing the annual report due to the State Library on May 2, 2008. The information submitted determines ECPL's state aid for the next fiscal year.

Margaret referred to the article in the ETN by Cornell Green "Beyond Books". Cornell met with the Administration group to gather information for this article, which highlighted the changing role of libraries throughout the country.

At their Finance Committee on 4/24/08, County Council plans to continue discussions regarding the relocation of the Millcreek Mall Branch. Council asked that we investigate and conduct a cost analysis of similar rental units located in the general vicinity.

The remodel of the new Edinboro Branch Library progresses with interior demolition and completion of the exterior. The fundraising kickoff event is scheduled for May and all board members will be invited.

As for the Fairview Branch, a meeting has been scheduled next week to meet with the architect to review the project and discuss alternatives to reduce the overall construction costs. The Erie Community Foundation is will issue a challenge grant to the community to help raise funds. A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for the end of May. Board members will be invited to this event.

The Marx Toy Museum, which will be moving from its present location, is hoping to relocate to a new space. The Blasco Library second floor exhibit area was one of the places mentioned as a possible temporary display site. Margaret will meet with County Administration to further discuss this plan. The exhibit area has various local groups that have already reserved the space through the remainder of the year.

Touch a Truck, the collaborative effort of many County Departments, is a special family program scheduled for Thursday, June 19 from 2-4 in the Blasco Library staff parking lot. Various County vehicles and staff will be on site to greet patrons and answer questions. This event, as part of ECPL's summer reading program, encourages reading while promoting County services.

Margaret referred to the *Erie PA Fact Sheet: Struggling Rust-Belt Town? Hardly* handout distributed by the Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership. Recent negative publicity prompted the distribution of this information promoting the region's opportunities for education, employment, housing, growth in business and tourism. Margaret encouraged board members to review the data about the positive aspects of living and working in Erie County.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS: (Joan Duke)

Joan Duke reviewed the circulation report included with the packet. The report indicates a 9% decrease for Blasco, and slight increases in circulation for Edinboro, Millcreek, Presque Isle and the Bookmobile.

Joan noted that all outlets were closed March 8 for a snow day and for the holiday on Good Friday, which affected March's figures. Additionally, Blasco Library was closed on Easter Sunday.

Tony Keck commented about the growing security issues at the Blasco Library and the negative impact on patron usage and circulation. Two recent theft and damage to automobile incidents were reported this week. Margaret continues to communicate her concerns with County administration and recently met with Sean Wiley and Luigi Pasquale about ongoing security issues at Blasco as well as the continued parking shortage. The installation of surveillance cameras in the parking lots was an option discussed as well as the hiring of security personnel.

REPORT OF DISTRICT CONSULTANT: (Anthony Keck)

Margaret and Tony attended the DLC meeting on 4/3 and 4/4 in Harrisburg. The future of district centers vs. library systems and how to improve services at the local library were two of the topics discussed. The State Library will examine the effectiveness of the present organization of district centers and draft a restructuring plan for review later this year.

ECPL plans to schedule a Legislative Breakfast later next month. Board members will be invited to attend the event to meet with local legislators to garner continued support for funding for library services.

The District Advisory Council meeting will be held on 4/24/08 at the Union City Library at 2:30 p.m. The District Agreement for 2008/09 will be reviewed. Sr. Kathleen asked about the signatories of the District Agreement. It must be approved by at least eight of the 15 libraries within the District, in addition to the ECPL Advisory Board and Commonwealth Libraries. Sr. Kathleen also inquired the part-time computer technician, who travels to district libraries as required and also assists at the Blasco Library.

NEW BUSINESS

• DISTRICT AGREEMENT

On an annual basis, ECPL and the district libraries must negotiate which services ECPL as the district center will provide. The board reviewed the draft District Agreement and budget for 2008-2009. Tony noted increases in the van line item to cover increasing fuel costs. The additional amount budgeted for the eBooks line item allows for downloadable audio format to Crawford County libraries.

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE 2008-2009 DISTRICT AGREEMENT

Barbara Wingerter moved to approve the 2008-2009 District Agreement.

Sr. Kathleen Blair seconded the motion.

Approved by unanimous vote.

- ***EARLY CLOSINGS***

APPROVAL TO CLOSE ALL LIBRARY OUTLETS AT 4:30 PM ON THANKSGIVING EVE, CHRISTMAS EVE AND NEW YEAR'S EVE.

Kathy DeSante moved to approve the 4:30 pm closing of all library outlets on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Mary Theiss seconded the motion.

APPROVED by unanimous vote.

- ***SIDS AWARENESS DAY – Friday, 4/18/08***

County Executive Mark DiVecchio has scheduled a press conference for today at 11:00 a.m. For \$5, County Employees can purchase a sticker recognizing Spring for SIDS Day with proceeds designated to the promotion of infant health and prevention of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Grady's Grace, a special local organization, was organized by Library Technology Assistant John Yatsko and his wife Jennifer, who lost their son Grady to SIDS last year. On Friday evening, the RiverRats will be donating a portion of ticket sales to the American SIDS Institute.

- ***Special Appearance***

On Saturday, 4/19/08, at 2 pm in the Blasco Children's Library, cartoonist and graphic novelist Andy Runton will make a special appearance. He is the creator of the *Owly* series and is visiting Erie while working with Edinboro University.

ADJOURNMENT - Adjourned at 12:40 p.m.