

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

**THURSDAY, May 21, 2009
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library**

CALL TO ORDER:

President Susan Ottaway called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Susan Ottaway, Jackie Breakstone, Pete Ogden, Mary Theiss, Barbara Wingerter.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sr. Kathleen Blair, Helene Grande, Amos Goodwine, Jeanine McCreary.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Library: Margaret Stewart, Library Director, Joan Duke, Blasco Coordinator, Anthony Keck, District Consultant, Ann Randall-Dill, Technology Coordinator, Diane Chlebus

Friends of the Library: Bob Gallivan

Susan Ottaway introduced the newly-appointed board member Jackie Breakstone to the library advisory board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

Pete Ogden 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, 5/23/09, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Blasco Library. The Great American Book Sales is scheduled from 6/7 through 6/12/09 at the Villa Maria Center.

Bob reported on the May 15, 2009, Legislative Breakfast held at the Edinboro Branch Library. Discussion at the brunch centered on the proposed 50% reduction of state aid to libraries. This cut would have a dramatic impact on library services and would affect the Power Library (electronic resources, databases, including full text magazine articles), IDS (Interlibrary Delivery Service) and the Access PA program. Bob asked all board members to advocate for library funding by writing to their legislators and State Senator.

Mary Theiss inquired if reduced hours of operation would help contain wage expenses. The Blasco Library, as a district center, must maintain 65 hours of service per week. Discussion followed regarding the cost of Sunday hours of operation and premium pay for staff who work on Sundays per the union contract.

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

ECPL has not yet received the financial statement ending 4/30/09. Margaret continues to monitor the temporary staff wage line item and expects this line item to be completely expended by mid year. This situation poses a problem as substitute staff is necessary when employees are granted paid leave time.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: (Margaret Z. Stewart)

Modifications in the monthly board packet

In order to reduce postage expense and reduce copying, Margaret summarized many of the individual board reports into a monthly status report. The board agreed that the condensed board packet was acceptable and that Margaret would bring the reports to the board meetings on a monthly basis for their review.

Margaret noted that April tends to be one of the busier months of the year. The Library's website had almost 24,000 hits this month, the highest number since ECPL began keeping statistics. The majority of those hits were database related. This increase may, in part, be related to the ECPL website survey, with one of the questions asking if patrons use the library's databases.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS: (Joan Duke)

Joan distributed the April circulation report. Overall, circulation has increased by 7% with Edinboro's up by 59% and Millcreek's by 52%. This comparison of the circulation figures is influenced by the two day closure this past April for the Easter holiday. Digital downloads (audio books) usage has increased by 8% and Vault, the online career information guide, is increasingly popular.

Barb Wingerter inquired about the opening of the West County Branch library. Margaret responded that the estimated construction completion date is mid June and the Presque Isle Branch will close June 13 to prepare for the move. The new branch is scheduled to open in September. Through a grant obtained by the ECPL Foundation, this branch received \$20,000 for technology from the Erie Community Foundation.

REPORT OF DISTRICT CONSULTANT: (Anthony Keck)

The big concern is the proposed state budget. A 50% cut equals \$961,214 in direct aid to ECPL. Additionally, cuts in other areas would greatly impact the Power Library, IDS and the State library card.

ECPL's Legislative Brunch last Friday was well attended by elected officials, district librarians and trustees from the six Independent Libraries.

Last week, Tony attended the IDS board meeting in Harrisburg. The Interlibrary Delivery Service of PA provides an effective, cost efficient delivery service for all types of libraries for resource sharing. SB 840 cuts IDS' subsidy by approximately \$630,000 and its continued existence beyond June 2010 is doubtful.

On May 13, district librarians attended the District's summer reading workshop: "Be Creative" at the Blasco Library. The Children's Department hosted the event.

Meadville Public Library celebrated its 130th anniversary on May 11.

Under new business, the board will review and vote on the District Agreement for 2009/2010.

Unfinished Business

None at this time.

New Business

Agreement for the Provision of District Library Services within the Erie/Crawford District

7/1/09 – 6/30/10

Tony reviewed the District Agreement, highlighting the budget allocations. State law requires that the District Center negotiate with the Erie/Crawford county libraries for services to be provided during the next fiscal year. A majority of the district libraries must approve the agreement, as well as the Library Advisory Board as the District Center Board and the State Library. The budget has been split into two categories: Library Development/Improvement and District Services.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2009-2010 DISTRICT AGREEMENT

Pete Ogden moved to approve the 2009/10 District Agreement as presented.

Barb Wingerter seconded the motion.

Approved by unanimous vote.

Review of ECPL's Internet Use Policy

Recently, Blasco library patrons, after using their library card for a 90 minute Internet use session, have been permitted to purchase a pass allowing them an additional 90 minute session on the Internet. The policy states that patrons must use their library card when logging into the computers or purchase a \$1 guest pass. The intent of the original policy limits sessions to ninety minutes each day, sixty minutes on Sunday, in order to allow the greatest number of users access to this service.

Discussion followed regarding options, including limiting usage to Erie County residents with library cards in good standing, issuing guest passes to out of town visitors only, and the matter of patrons who are not able to pay off their fines but still require Internet access for career opportunities and job training. Mary Theiss and Barb Wingerter agreed to serve on a review committee to work with staff to revise the policy.

ADJOURNMENT - Adjourned at 1:03 p.m.