

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

**THURSDAY, June 18, 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, Helene Grande, Jeanine McCreary, Pete Ogden, Mary Theiss, Barbara Wingerter.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sr. Kathleen Blair, Amos Goodwine.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Library: Margaret Stewart, Library Director, Joan Duke, Blasco Coordinator, Anthony Keck, District Consultant, Diane Chlebus

Friends of the Library: Bob Gallivan

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Jeanine McCreary moved to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2009.

Mary Theiss seconded the motion.

Approved by unanimous vote.

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT (Robert Gallivan)**

The Great American Book Sale was a huge success. The weather cooperated and the media coverage was excellent.

The next book collection for the Friends of the Library is scheduled for Saturday, 9/5/09, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Blasco Library.

An informational mailing was sent to all FOL members asking them to send hand-written letters to their legislators and State Senator as well as Governor Rendell asking to maintain library funding. Handwritten letters have a huge impact and Bob asked that all board members communicate to their constituents the importance of doing the same.

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

Margaret referred to the statement ending 5/31/09. Projections indicate funding for temporary staff will be expended by the end of next month. Other concerns in the budget are equipment maintenance line items.

As for the State budget, the bill that would have reduced direct appropriations to libraries was rejected. Margaret explained that any cuts in state funding for libraries would also reduce Federal money. This is money that the County of Erie cannot make up during these difficult economic times. The County will face similar challenges as it prepares the 2010 budget for county services.

Tony discussed district funding, which is on a fiscal year basis. If the State budget doesn't pass, adequate funds to continue district operations are available only through mid-August. As a cautionary measure, all discretionary funding has ceased. Delivery to the branches and Independent Libraries would be affected and interlibrary loan requests could not be filled.

Margaret will continue to apprise the board of budget developments over the next several weeks.

**REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: (Margaret Z. Stewart)**

June 23 is the date for substantial completion for the West County Branch. In preparation for the move, the Presque Isle Branch closed June 13, 2009.

**STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS: (Joan Duke)**

The board reviewed the May circulation report. Overall, circulation has increased by .4%. Edinboro's circulation is up by 51% and Millcreek's by 34%. Foot traffic at the Blasco library increased by 4% over May 2008. Overall, all outlets saw an increase in Internet lab usage.

Blasco Library's decline in circulation may be affected by persistent patron problems where the police have been called for assistance.

The summer reading program began 6/7/09. The teen program is very popular with young adults signing up in record numbers.

**REPORT OF DISTRICT CONSULTANT: (Anthony Keck)**

Last week, Tony attended a multi-district workshop "Teen Temptations" which addressed services to teen patrons.

Rep. Pat Harkins recently introduced House Bill 1647. The bill provides for a formula-based distribution of state aid to all libraries in Pennsylvania once the total dollar amount is legislated.

**Unfinished Business**

**Internet Policy Review**

The board reviewed the draft revision of Policy #640-Internet Use. It indicates patrons must use their own card or own a current library card from a County Independent Library. Also added was a paragraph which outlines use of the lab by non-Erie county patrons.

Barb Wingerter questioned if patrons who have fines or outstanding bills are permitted to use the Internet. Because the circulation computer system and the Internet sign-in program are not compatible, it is not possible at this time to block Internet access if a patron is not in good standing.

A general discussed followed regarding revoking privileges, blocking inappropriate sites, and the option of calling the authorities to press charges.

The board will vote on this revised policy at next month's meeting.

**New Business**

None at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT** - Adjourned at 12:43 p.m.