

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

**THURSDAY, July 16, 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, Sr. Kathleen Blair, Jackie Breakstone, Jeanine McCreary, Pete Ogden, Barbara Wingerter.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Amos Goodwine, Helene Grande, Mary Theiss.

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:

Pete Ogden moved to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2009.

Jeanine McCreary 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, 9/5/09, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Blasco Library.

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

The statement ending 6/30/09 has not been received. Figures for the first half of the year will be closely scrutinized and used to project fund balances through year end.

DISTRICT SERVICES/ILL

Margaret discussed the impact on District services due to the lack of a 2009/2010 state budget. Margaret will meet with County Administration next week to determine what action to take as the funds run out. At the present time, wages, fringes, gas and vehicles maintenance costs are the only expenses being funded. Staff layoffs are inevitable, including the district consultant, two interlibrary loan clerks, the van driver as well as one part time technology assistant. As of July 15th, no Interlibrary Loan requests will be accepted due to the lack of money.

In previous years, with similar budget situations, the County was able to subsidize the district until the state budget was resolved. This is not an option this year as the County faces many budgetary challenges in 2010. Other County mandated services that will not receive their state subsidies will be funded first. At the very minimum, Margaret hopes the delivery service would be maintained and the consultant's position would be funded.

Joan noted that ECPL would not be permitted to use per diem substitutes if there are staff layoffs. This will have a profound negative impact on the staffing of all library outlets.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: (Margaret Z. Stewart)

ECPL has been a federal government documents repository library for over 100 years. With many of these documents now available on the Internet, and because of the extensive staff time required to maintain the collection, library administration will begin examining the library's continued future involvement and retention of this collection.

Barb Wingerter inquired about the staffing of the new West County Branch in view of the funding crisis. Margaret explained that staffing is in place to open the facility by mid-September. Shelving is being installed and movers are

scheduled for the first week in August. It was suggested that local media feature a story about the successful completion of the branch.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS: (Joan Duke)

The board reviewed the latest circulation report, noting that June of 2009 had one additional operating day than June of 2008. Overall, circulation has increased by 5%. Edinboro's circulation is up by 75% and Millcreek's by 57%. Foot traffic at the Blasco library increased by 7% over June of 2008. Internet lab usage has greatly increased at all outlets.

The summer reading program has begun and many children and young adults are participating.

REPORT OF DISTRICT CONSULTANT: (Anthony Keck)

Tony has scheduled a meeting with the Erie County Independent Libraries to discuss the details of the Shared Catalog. The membership licensing fee will most likely increase for participating libraries.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Internet Policy Vote

The board reviewed 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.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE REVISED INTERNET POLICY #640 EFFECTIVE July 1, 2009

JEANINE MCCREARY moved to approve POLICY #640 – Internet Use.

BARBARA WINGERTER seconded the motion.

APPROVED – by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT - Adjourned at 12:37 p.m.