

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

**THURSDAY, September 20, 2007
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library**

CALL TO ORDER:

SUSAN OTTAWAY, Board President, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Susan Ottaway, Kathy DeSante, Amos Goodwine, Jeanine McCreary, Pete Ogden, Mary Theiss, Barbara Wingerter.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sr. Kathleen Blair, Helene Grande.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Library: Margaret Stewart, Library Director, Ann Randall-Dill, Mary Rennie, Diane Chlebus
County Council Liaison: Kyle Foust

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

JEANINE MCCREARY moved to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2007, meeting.

AMOS GOODWINE seconded the motion.

APPROVED by unanimous vote.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT: (Margaret Stewart)

The financial report ending 8/31/07 was reviewed. The wage line items are under expended. Union labor contracts haven't been finalized and additional funding was allocated in this year's budget for a proposed wage increase. It was mentioned that AFSCME has expressed their dissatisfaction with the current contract proceedings.

The LSTA Grant, which expires this month, has been extended for an additional five years. This grant provides services to special populations, including a depository collection at two Erie housing projects, computer access at the locations and access to Live Homework Help.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: (Margaret Stewart)

Margaret reported that the summer reading program was a huge success with over 4000 children participating.

The board reviewed the obituary of Donald G. Leberman, past president of the Meadville Public Library Board and CCFLS Board. An avid library supporter, Mr. Leberman will be missed.

The ECPL Foundation is very close to approving the final construction drawings for the Fairview Branch Library. The Foundation has formally purchased the condominium unit where the new Edinboro Branch Library will be housed and is looking for an architect for the remodeling project.

ECPL ONE BOOK ONE ERIE – THE BIG READ *The Great Gatsby*

Margaret distributed a list of events scheduled for this year's program. Board members received reader's guide pamphlets and were invited to attend the 9/28/07 press conference at 3 P.M. at the Blasco Library.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS: (Mary Rennie)

Mary reported on the decline in circulation. Generally, these numbers are affected by methods of counting items (multiple items are now coded with one bar code), the difference in the way the new system monitors statistics, fewer public programs, and finally, the lack of adequate parking at the main library.

Amos inquired how ECPL could reverse this trend and better meet the needs of the patrons. Mary noted that the library lacks adequate funding for programs, and as for the parking situation, Library administration is working with County administration, investigating options for additional free parking at the Blasco Library. A general discussion followed

regarding property ownership, opportunities for land acquisition and constructing parking ramps. Mary explained that the library's geothermal well system is under the front patron paved lot and it is not feasible to add a parking ramp there.

REPORT OF DISTRICT CONSULTANT

The board reviewed Tony's report included in the packet.

4:30 p.m. Closing – New Year's Eve

Margaret asked for the board's approval to close at 4:30 on 12/31/07. This request follows past practice.

APPROVAL OF 4:30 P.M. CLOSING ON DECEMBER 31, 2007

AMOS GOODWINE moved to approve closing at 4:30 on New Year's Eve.

KATHY DESANTE seconded the motion.

APPROVED by unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT - Adjourned at 12:25 p.m.