

**MINUTES of the MEETING of the
ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD**

**THURSDAY, October 15, 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, Amos Goodwine, Pete Ogden, Barbara Wingerter.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Helene Grande, Jeanine McCreary, Mary Theiss.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Library: Margaret Z. Stewart, Library Director; Joan Duke, Main Library Coordinator; Anthony Keck, District Consultant.

Friends of the Library: Robert Gallivan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Pete Ogden moved to approve the minutes of the Library Advisory Board meeting on July 16, 2009. Amos Goodwine seconded the motion. Approved by unanimous vote.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT (Robert Gallivan)

Bob announced that the Friends will hold the Mystery and Fiction Book Sale on October 29 – 31 in the Admiral Room of the Blasco Memorial Library. The Friends also have scheduled a book collection for Saturday, 10/31/09 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT (Margaret Z. Stewart)

The financial statement ending 9/30/09 was reviewed. Margaret reported that the Library is doing okay. She projects that the library should not run a deficit at the end of the year. She noted that the financials may look good on paper. However, the County of Erie has no money. This issue is expected to be rectified in the near future. Meanwhile, the state budget has been passed. It includes a 20.1% decrease in state aid to the Library.

Margaret discussed the article that appeared in the 10/15/09 issue of the *Erie Times News*, titled "State Budget Helps, Hurts Erie Region." County Executive Mark DiVecchio stated in the article that there are line items that he would like to reinstate in the County budget, if possible, including Sunday hours at the Blasco library. Margaret remarked on the ramifications of the 2010 budget and how it includes an unprecedented 50% reduction in the materials budget. This reduction does not meet the state minimum standards for District Library Centers and is also a great disservice to library patrons. The impact of closing the Blasco Memorial Library on Sundays was discussed. Plus, all the particulars of Sunday hours were addressed. There is also a 57% cut in state funded database resources which also will affect customer service. Margaret indicated that there are two waivers that the library may need to apply for at the state level due to the reduced budget: a reduction in the materials budget; and a reduction in the hours of operation of the District Library Center.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Margaret Z. Stewart)

Margaret referred board members to her report, emailed on Oct. 9. She also reviewed what was happening at the new branch library, the Lincoln Community Center on Manchester Road, which opened on October 1.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS (Joan Duke)

The board reviewed the latest circulation report, which showed a 5% decrease in overall circulation for the month of September. However, circulation at Edinboro was up by 67% and total circulation across the system was up by 13% in August. Joan noted that August 2009 had a record number of users in the internet lab at the Blasco Library. And, internet usage across the system was up by 9.45% in the month on September. In other statistics, use of the Heritage Room increased this past month and digital downloading was up by 41%.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT CONSULTANT (Anthony Keck)

Tony reported on the District Advisory Council meeting that was held last week. He presented the changes to the District Agreement, including the new figure of \$308,459 and elimination of the half-time library clerk position in the Interlibrary Loan Department. Tony explained that the majority of the participating libraries plus the Library Advisory Board must approve the District Agreement. Tony reviewed the details and options pertaining to the Amended District Services budget.

Amos Goodwine moved to accept the Agreement for the Provision of District Library Services. Sr. Kathleen Blair seconded the motion. Approved by unanimous vote.

County coordination aid was discussed. Tony also noted that the Crawford County Federated Library System has been affected by the budget crisis, too.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Margaret Stewart announced that the terms of some board members are expiring. She asked that members continue to serve in their position until a successor has been named. Margaret said she believes this matter will wait until a new County Executive takes office. Board members were to contact Margaret if there is a problem with this plan.

Margaret Stewart polled board members about continuing the practice of emailing the board packets one week prior to the board meeting. The next packet will be emailed on November 12.

NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.