

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

**THURSDAY, November 15, 2007
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library**

CALL TO ORDER:

SUSAN OTTAWAY, Board President, called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Susan Ottaway, Helene Grande, Pete Ogden, Barbara Wingerter, Sr. Kathleen Blair

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kathy DeSante, Amos Goodwine, Jeanine McCreary, Mary Theiss.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Library: Margaret Stewart, Library Director, Ann Randall-Dill, Diane Chlebus

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Pete Ogden moved to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2007, meeting.

Helene Grande seconded the motion.

APPROVED by unanimous vote.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT: (Robert Gallivan)

Bob Gallivan reported that the recent Mystery Book Sale was a huge success. Bob was pleased to report that County Council Representative Dave Mitchell was awarded the PaLA's Elected Official of the year award.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT: (Margaret Stewart)

The financial report ending 10/31/07 was reviewed. The AFSCME Clerical/Technical Union did settle their contract and County Council must now approve the contract. The library appendix, however, was voted down and additional meetings will be scheduled in the near future. The AFSCME Professional unit voted against their contract and another negotiating session is scheduled for tomorrow. An overwhelming majority of the professional union members voted to authorize a strike. Reference, Children's and computer room services would be affected by a strike. Barbara Wingerter inquired if branch services would be affected. Margaret responded that branches would not be impacted.

If County Council does pass the AFSCME C/T contract, it may take several months to implement pay increases related to this contract and budgetary wage line items. At this stage it is unsure how non-bargaining employees will be compensated.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: (Margaret Stewart)

Erie County has hired consultants from Mercyhurst Civic Institute to evaluate security issues at all County facilities. Library Administration will meet with County Administration to review the report and address major security concerns at Blasco Library. The 2008 budget did allow funding for enhanced security personnel at Blasco; however, this was removed from the budget. After the report is received and evaluated, funding may be allocated for additional security.

The 2008 Erie County budget was passed. Some of the gaming money will be used to support a portion of ECPL's and EMTA's operations. County Council is well aware that if this revenue source ceases, funding must be allocated from the County to continue these services.

Since the new branch facilities will not open until later in 2008, funding for additional branch staff will be re-evaluated next year, closer to the time of the grand openings.

In January, Margaret will reconvene the Strategic Plan Committee to review progress, discuss modifications to the original plan and re-set priorities and timelines.

The Erie County Public Library Foundation hosted an informational gathering for potential donors for the branch in Fairview. The openness of the lot was a concern of one patron and it was suggested that a fireplace be added to the community room. Because of liability issues, County buildings may not have fireplaces. Overall, the fundraising event was a success.

The Foundation hopes to pour footers and the concrete slabs before the inclement weather, which will allow for wall placement and interior construction through the winter months. The present site drawings were reviewed. The site plan will accommodate parking for 65 cars. It was noted that the latest draft drawings enlarged the community room, increasing the approximate square footage of the entire building to just less than 10,000 square feet.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS: (Margaret Stewart)

October circulation numbers reflect similar trends from previous months. The Blasco Library circulation statistics are slightly down with branch circulation elevated.

REPORT OF DISTRICT CONSULTANT (Margaret Stewart for Tony Keck)

Ann Kruger, The Erie/Crawford County new State Library liaison, is currently touring the district with the consultant.

Union City Library has received a check from Bloomfield Township for \$5,000, the amount due which was collected from the 2007 dedicated library tax.

The Board will review the 2008 County Plan under New Business. This plan is required each year by the State Library.

NEW BUSINESS

2008 Erie County Public Library County Plan

County Coordination Aid is designed to provide strong library service and foster cooperation with ECPL and the independent public libraries within Erie County. Reference services, circulating collections, children's services, continuing education training and computer and telecommunications support are provided.

APPROVAL OF THE 2008 ECPL COUNTY PLAN

HELENE GRANDE moved to approve the revised ECPL Strategic Plan timeline.

BARBARA WINGERTER seconded the motion.

APPROVED by unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT - Adjourned at 12:37 p.m.