

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

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**THURSDAY, March 17, 2011  
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Jeanine McCreary called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jackie Breakstone, Jeanine McCreary, Marilyn Kraus, Pete Ogden, William Garvey, Hiram Daley.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mary Theiss Lyons, Amos Goodwine, Helene Grande.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Library: Margaret Stewart, Executive Director; Joan Duke, Main Library Coordinator; Patrice Berchtold, Executive Assistant. Robert Gallivan - Friends of the Library.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Pete Ogden moved to approve the minutes of the Advisory Board meeting of January 20, 2011. Hy Daley seconded the motion. Approved by unanimous vote.

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY UPDATE:**

The next collection is set for Saturday 3/26/11 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m, Northwest corner of Holland and Front Streets.

**REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT (Margaret Stewart)**

Margaret reported that you received a copy of January and February's Financial Reports. There is nothing out of the ordinary at this time, however, you will notice that the periodical line item shows a good portion of the money spent because we pay most of our subscriptions at the beginning of the year.

The proposed state budget revealed a 1.9% decrease for Libraries. We would not be surprised if this changes before the final budget is approved. By this time of the year we are usually negotiating the contracts with the district libraries, however, we have been told to hold off on doing so by the State Library.

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Margaret Stewart)**

Margaret stated that we unveiled our new website on March 8<sup>th</sup> and we have received very positive feedback from our patrons so far. We continue to tweak this site to ensure it is user friendly and easy to navigate. On 4/21 the library and the Experience Children's Museum along with the Junior League Erie are hosting the Pennsylvania One Book, Every Young Child author visit of Stephen Swinburne, author of Whose Shoes? He will visit the John Horan Garden Apartments' Head Start Classroom, the Museum and Blasco Library that day. The children's library staff will conduct their spring workshop for district librarians on 3/30. We welcomed eight new staff this month and they are currently training. We hired 1 full time librarian and 7 part time library clerks. We have posted a half time library assistant position and a full time library clerk position. This winter has been one of the worst for affecting our buildings. We have had some type of problem at each of our buildings.

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

Overall circulation was down 12% for the month of February, compared to February, 2010, however, we do not include our digital downloads in this number. Website hits increased 13% from February, 2010 and computer lab log-ins increased 8.73%. Most of the computer usage is for Blasco and Millcreek.

Interlibrary loans also increased 4% from February, 2010. The number of patrons visiting Blasco in February, 2011 was 28,133.

### **REPORT OF THE DISTRICT CONSULTANT (Tony Keck)**

Tony is not here today, but Margaret stated that Tony would normally be reporting on the negotiations with the district libraries but we have been told by the state library to hold off on negotiations.

### **REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

Dr. Garvey updated the board on the Library Service Review Task Force. The two primary goals of this committee is to address the options for the library's art work and how to improve long term funding of the library. They looked at all the major libraries and gifts they have received over the years. They are looking at developing a large enough endowment to sustain the library. To accomplish this it was felt they would need at least a 5 million dollar endowment and a staff development person. After several meetings of discussion, it was felt that the money received from the sale of art work would not be enough to warrant selling them. The other issue is that the library's large art collection is not being taken care of/maintained properly. The collection could be transferred to the art museum for restoration and maintenance. The County Executive wants to meet with the committee next week because there were two appraisals done on the Hassam and it may be worth more than last thought. The creation of an endowment is critical to the continuation of the library.

Event Planning Committee – Jeanine stated that this committee is welcoming new members. We are looking at planning a major event this year in late September for the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Blasco Library. We are still looking for a chair for this committee. The next meeting is 4/7/11 at 4:00 in the Admiral Room.

### **BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES**

The Northwest Region Trustee Workshop is being held in Clarion on 5/14/11. It is free and any board member is welcome to attend. Please let Tony Keck know if you would like to attend.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

We are typically closed on Easter Sunday (4/24/11) and Christmas Day (Sunday, 12/25/11). We are asking the board to be closed on those two holidays. Pete Ogden made a motion to close the library on 4/24/11 and 12/25/11. Jackie Breakstone seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**The next Advisory Board meeting is April 21, 2011.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.