

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

**THURSDAY, August 21, 2014
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library**

CALL TO ORDER:

Joe Mineo called the meeting to order at 12:03.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mary Frances Baugh, Kathleen Keys, Elspeth Koehle, Joe Mineo, Diane Papesch, Mary Scutella.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jackie Breakstone, William Garvey.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Library: Mary Rennie, Executive Director; Patrice Berchtold, Executive Assistant.

Friends of the Library: Marcy Bencivenga.

The Board welcomed Mary Frances Baugh as Carol Loll's appointee, and thanked her for serving.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mary Scutella made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of May15, 2014. Diane Papesch seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

HEARING OF CITIZENS: None.

REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL LIAISON (Ed DiMattio): None.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY UPDATE (Marcy Bencivenga): The Friend's annual book sale netted \$33,000, which was more than last year. Erie Gives was held on August 12th and the Friends made \$5,000. They will receive their check on this Friday at the Erie Zoo at the formal check presentation. The money raised from Erie Gives will be dedicated to children's programs. This Sunday, Marcy Bencivenga, along with Mary Rennie and Marcy Hall of the Library will be featured on WQLN.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT (Mary Rennie):

Mary stated that under Revenue, the line for fees is less than we projected. We did lower fines this year and this has affected this line item. There is a request for a supplemental appropriation to request \$30,000 of county funds to rebuild the engine on the bookmobile, get new tires and for some body work needed to get it back on the road. We are still looking at a drop off location for the Springfield areas. Under the temporary staff line, we are overspent and we are projecting that line amount will double by the end of the year. We have to call in staff to fill in for vacations, extended sick leaves, etc. We will make up this overage in our personnel lines. Branch custodial and utilities will also be overspent. These lines include snow removal and utilities which we have little control over. For the 2015 budget, Mary will be asking for you to contact your County Council person to support the Library.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Mary Rennie):

May reported that Rebecca Long will be starting on September 8th as the new Technology Coordinator. She is relocating back to Erie to fill the vacancy of Ann Randall-Dill who had been with the library for almost 40 years. We will try to bring her to the next Board meeting to introduce her.

The Millcreek lease is up in June, 2015 and we have received a copy of the new lease. We looked at other spaces within the mall and for various reasons none of them have worked out. We can look at a short term lease but the rent doubles. We are proposing a five year lease. We would like to keep our options open for the future for other locations in the Millcreek area, specifically for land to build. The current space of the Millcreek branch is 6,000 square feet.

Mary has talked about the addition of a technology space, and since the Millcreek mall branch is staying in its present location, we are focusing on the second floor of Blasco for this technology space. We are looking at moving fiction to the first floor and keeping the Heritage room and public access computer lab where they are currently located. We want to add a business component and an educational/creativity component, which would include a multi-media room. The library can provide the business component which could serve as a central clearing house to get the word out, which is a piece that is currently missing. The first hurdle was to meet with the State Librarian (Stacey Aldrich) and that was done on August 4th. Mary and Tony talked to Stacey because we would need some waivers to the current code and state regulations. Stacey is very willing to work with us. Mary is meeting with County Council members soon. In the 2015 budget, Mary will be asking for some additional positions to be able to do what we want to in the technology concept. We also want to be able to open the branches for more hours, so we will be asking for more per-diem money. We will be looking into grants and the Erie Regional Foundation as possible funding sources.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS (Joan Duke):

Since Joan was not at the meeting, statistics will be discussed at next month's meeting.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT CONSULTANT (Tony Keck):

Since Tony was not at the meeting, there is no report.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

There were several newspaper articles in your packet.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES: Joe will be asking for Library board members to serve on a nomination committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Board Member replacements/continuations:

Joe continues to work with Doug Smith for Dr. Foust's representative.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mary Frances Baugh stated that her daughter, Carolyn Baugh, is in the History Department at Gannon University. She has a project to complete doing an oral history of refugees and immigrants in Erie. Mary Frances wondered if the library would be interested in a rotating exhibit to histories of immigrants and refugees. Mary Scutella stated that the Jewish community has just finished a living project for their community. Mary Rennie stated that the library would be interested in both. She will contact Carolyn Baugh.

The next Advisory Board meeting is September 18, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.