

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

-----  
**THURSDAY, March 19, 2015  
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jackie Breakstone, Dr. William Garvey, Elspeth Koehle, Joe Mineo, Diane Papesch.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mary Frances Baugh, Kathleen Keys, Christine Matheis, Mary Scutella.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Library: Mary Rennie, Executive Director; Tony Keck, District Consultant; Erin Wincek, Blasco Coordinator; Friends of the Library: Carol Gettinger.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Dr. William Garvey made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 19, 2015. Jackie Breakstone 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 (Carol Gettinger):**

The Gannon Chamber donated a baby grand piano to the Library for use in the Hirt Auditorium. The Friends paid for the move and tuning of the piano. On March 27, author Beverly Lewis will visit Barnes and Noble. A percentage of the sales of her books, sold during the event, will be donated to the Friends. The next used book drive is March 28 from 10am-2pm. In May, the annual Cookbook/Gardening Sale will be held and will include cooking and gardening demonstrations.

**REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT (Mary Rennie):**

Branch costs are an area of concern. Iroquois had roof damage from the snow and ice, and the original siding is deteriorating. When the building was constructed there were issues and most of the siding was removed then but there are still affected areas. Now the roof is leaking and the clock tower needs repaired. Additionally, the parking lot needs fixed. Luigi Pasquelle is working on costs. Another area of concern is the geothermal at Blasco We are currently in discussion with PA Historical Museum Commission with Penn State Behrend working toward a solution. There will be two test wells dug which will result in the loss of 5-7 parking spaces for 1-2 weeks. There will also be costs associated with the Blasco Library flood, for the cost of plumbers, flood mitigation, and other associated costs. The damage affected the Admiral Room, Mead Children's Room, and the Copier Room.

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Mary Rennie):**

In relation to the Blasco Library Idea Lab, we received eight bids from regional architectural firms. Six of the firms were chosen to present to the Library Foundation Board. Local firm, Bostwick Design Partnership, was chosen by a narrow margin. Bostwick brings ground breaking technology space design expertise to the table. We will be going through a conceptual design phase along with the facilitation of

public input. Sara Jane Lowry, a library consultant, visited the Library Foundation Board to help the board work toward a sustainable future. A recommendation was made to look at other foundations of large library systems in order have working examples of strong boards. The feeling is that there is definitely money out there to help the library move forward, we just need someone dedicated to finding it.

**STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS (Erin Wincek):**

Overall circulation was down in February. It makes sense that we would be down given the record-breaking cold. Programming is also down and therefore, we are strategically planning a full schedule of programs for the future, on a regular basis. There has been discussion about adding a new Bookmobile stop for the VA's nursing home residents and employees.

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

Governor Wolf's budget draft shows flat funding for public libraries and cuts to Access PA. The Library community is upset, hoping for an increase, given the education focus of his campaign and Wolf's position on a library board. There is still hope that a change will be made by the State Legislature. There is no acting state librarian at this moment, which could be a detriment during the state budget hearing. It is felt that libraries need to better listen to the needs of their specific communities and do a better job serving them in order to gain community support and funding.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES:** None

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

There are several newspaper articles to review in your packet.

**BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Everyone should be prepared to give input into the Idea Lab, Camtech, and library marketing, so it is recommended to regularly check your email. The next Advisory Board meeting is April 16, 2015.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.