

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

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**THURSDAY, June 18, 2015  
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Joe Mineo called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mary Frances Baugh, Jackie Breakstone, Joe Mineo, Diane Papesch, Mary Scutella.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Dr. William Garvey, Kathleen Keys, Elspeth Koehle, Christine Matheis.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Library: Tony Keck, District Consultant; Patrice Berchtold, Executive Assistant. Marcy Bencivenga, Friend's of the Library.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mary Scutella made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 21, 2015. Mary Frances Baugh 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 Great American Book Sale is going on and ends on Friday. This year they tried some new advertising with a billboard at the Millcreek Mall, which only cost the non-profit rate of \$75.00. they also took out a GoErie ad. Marcy tried to poll people as they came in on Sunday as to how they heard about the sale, but stated that there were so many people it was hard to do. Some of the people stated that they come every year. There is no way the Friends could do the sale without all of the many volunteers, especially Bob and Marion Gallivan. Last year they made \$33,000 and hopefully this year will exceed that. Erie Gives is on August 11<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 8pm. The Friends have developed and distributed a new membership form; they were handed out at the book sale and at the library and branches. They have seen a 10% growth since they developed a Facebook page. Marion Gallivan will take over as president of the Friends in July. Marcy appreciates the opportunity to be president over the last two years. The Board thanked Marcy for everything she has done as the president of the Friends.

**REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT (Tony Keck):**

As we get close to the half way mark, there is not anything unusual in the budget that Mary has not mentioned before. Several lines which are overspent are due to renewals which we pay at the beginning of the year.

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Tony Keck):**

We have had two staff meetings with Bostwick Design to gather input for the Idea Lab. On June 12<sup>th</sup> Administrators and Managers met with Bostwick to brainstorm about the needs of the Idea Lab and to look at the design of the first and second floors. There is another design meeting scheduled on June 24<sup>th</sup> with Bostwick Design. We hope the conceptualization will begin in July.

Mr. Cafaro and the Cafaro Foundation have pledged \$100,000 for the Idea Lab. He presented Mary with a \$50,000.00 check on Wednesday and they will give the other \$50,000 next year. The relationship with Mr. Cafaro goes back 40 years when the library was one of the first tenants in the Millcreek Mall. We thank the Cafaro Foundation for their investment in the Library and the community at large.

We are accepting bids for a strategic planner which the Friends and Foundation have each agreed to split the cost of up to \$15,000.00 each. It was also suggested to use SWOT Analysis and goals of Emerge 2040 since we want to align ourselves with their vision and goals. These are exciting times and we have a lot of potential to move Erie ahead.

**STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS (Tony Keck):**

Overall circulation was down from May, 2014, however the Edinboro branch was up, along with the Bookmobile. OverDrive (e-books) was up 6% from May of last year. We did not renew our contract with Freegal, however, it will be replaced with a new service. This new service allows for public availability of thousands of movies, television shows, music albums and audiobooks, all available for mobile and online access through **hoopla digital** – all you need is a valid library card. The number of programs offered was up 3% over last year and the number of attendees was up 106%, due to the number of people who attended Comic Con. Website visits were up 10% and our facebook likes continue to rise.

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

Tony stated that we are waiting for the state budget to be approved and there has been no news if the budget will get passed by the end of this month. The deadline for applying for State Librarian was May 18<sup>th</sup>. Bob Gallivan said that they are setting up telephone interviews and hopefully will have someone selected by September. Included in the Board packet were letters to Waterford and Albion libraries about their Director's certification requirements. These are very small libraries and the list of requirements can be very daunting for them. Tony has been in touch with both directors and offered to help where he can.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES:** None

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

There are several newspaper articles to review in your packet. We continue to get a lot of positive press.

**BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES:**

Please email Board members of the meeting the library would like them to attend.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Anthony Cafaro has made a \$100,000.00 donation for the Blasco Idea Lab. We were presented with a \$50,000 check yesterday and will receive the other half next year.

The next Advisory Board meeting is July 16, 2015.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.