

**Minutes for Library Board Meeting  
October 15, 2015  
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library**

**Call to Order:** Joe Mineo called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

**Members Present:** Joe Mineo, Jackie Breakstone, Mary Scutella, Diane Papesch, Mary Frances Baugh.

**Members Absent:** Dr. Garvey, Elspeth Koehle, Christine Matheis, and Kathleen Keys.

**Others Present:** Mary Rennie, Marion Gallivan, Marcy Hall.

**Approval of Minutes:** There was a motion by Jackie Breakstone and a second from Diane Papesch to approve the September 17, 2015 minutes as presented.

**Report of the County Council Liason:** Ed DiMattio was not present, so there was no report.

**Friends of the Library Update:** (Marion Gallivan) The Fall Book Sale will take place on October 29-31 in the Admiral Room at the Blasco Library. The Fall sale will include Mysteries and Other Fiction plus children's books of all kinds. There was a also a comment that with matching funds from the Erie Community Foundation, the Erie Gives Day raised about \$4,000 for the Friends.

**Financial Report:** (Mary Rennie) Thus far in the year, we are in good financial standing. There's been a savings in the personnel line due to staff vacancies. The Maintenance line will likely be overspent due to things being updated at the Blasco Library, namely the HVAC system. Overall, we look to end the year well and hopefully without a savings that would damage our State Aid.

**Executive Director's Report:** (Mary Rennie) Public meetings regarding the redesign of the Blasco Library are going on presently (the week of October 12, 2015). So far, the public opinion and feedback is good. Some of the biggest questions revolve around the actual definition of the "Idea Lab" and also how we will keep collections completely incorporated into the design. As it stands, we will lose no linear feet of shelving space in this plan. As for the definition of the "Idea Lab," it is still forming, but it comprises many spaces, some of which are being given back to the public in the form of meeting spaces or classrooms, and some in the form of maker spaces or open, moveable spaces. Each space will be part of a phase of which there are five, so the project will happen over a period of many months with a final overall cost of approximately just over \$2 million. What will likely be the final public presentation of the Blasco redesign will take place on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:15 AM on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Erie County Courthouse. This presentation will include the County Executive and members of County Council, however, anyone is welcome to attend. Soon after this presentation and meeting, we should see a final plan from Bostwick Design.

There is a big focus in the community at this time about the pending increase in County taxes. The Library's part of those taxes would go to fund one administrative position to assist with

budget and personnel issues and the remainder would go to fund per diem hours to hopefully open the branches for more hours.

The Legislative Breakfast took place last month, and was a success, though many legislators were not able to attend due to other commitments. There was a great interest in financial projections dealing with the Blasco Redesign.

Mary had the opportunity to meet with the new Commissioner of Libraries, Glenn Miller, in Harrisburg. She brought him up to speed on what's happening here in Erie and updated him about the possibilities of a Regional Network that could be formed with the I-6 Challenge Grant, which was applied for last month in conjunction with many other entities, including all of our major local Universities, the Innovation Collaborative, and the County of Erie, to name a few.

By the end of 2015, we should have a final plan and financial figures for the Blasco Redesign; we should have a new Strategic Plan written for the near future; and we should know the status of the I-6 Grant.

**Statistical Report:** (Marcy Hall) Circulation is still down amongst Blasco and the branches overall, but that doesn't mean usage is down. There is increased usage of our website and lots of interaction on our Facebook page, which shows us that people are accessing us for different reasons and in different ways. Also a highlight is our programming, which is up 73% from last year, a dramatic and much needed increase. We have added many new hands-on programs, as well as more classes to help our patrons with practical and employment needs.

**Report of District Consultant:** Tony Keck, District Consultant was not present, so no report was given.

**Report of Committees:** (Jackie Breakstone) Jackie Breakstone and Mary Scutella were asked to head up a Nominations Committee. After meeting, they asked Joe Mineo to continue on in the role of president. Mary Scutella will serve as Vice President to learn the ropes of becoming the President in the future.

**Board Development Activities:** (Joe Mineo) Board members have attended both the public forum meetings about the Blasco Redesign as well as attending Strategic Planning Meetings. Jackie Breakstone plans to attend an upcoming Strategic Planning meeting as well.

**Unfinished Business:** (Joe Mineo) Joe sent an email to Doug Smith concerning Diane Papesch's desire to remain serving on the Board. He is waiting to hear back. Also, the By-laws were reviewed and found to still be current. No changes were made.

**New Business:** (Joe Mineo) There was a vote on the upcoming schedule of holidays for 2016 as well as a vote to have all library outlets closed for a Staff Development Day on October 10, 2016. Jackie Breakstone made a motion to approve all the closings with a second from Mary Frances Baugh. The motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by Joe Mineo at 12:50 PM.