

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

**THURSDAY, November 19, 2015
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library**

CALL TO ORDER:

Joe Mineo called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mary Frances Baugh, Jackie Breakstone, Dr. William Garvey, Joe Mineo, Mary Scutella.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kathleen Keys, Elspeth Koehle, Christine Matheis, Diane Papesch.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Library: Mary Rennie, Executive Director; Tony Keck, District Consultant; Erin Wincek, Blasco Coordinator; Patrice Berchtold, Executive Assistant.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Jackie Breakstone made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 15, 2015. Mary Scutella 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 (Marion Gallivan): None.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT (Mary Rennie):

Because the state budget has not passed, we have a cash flow problem in the county, so there is a spending freeze, except for essential items, such as utilities and employee salaries. Unfortunately we are not spending money on books and materials and other items we need to spend by the end of the year. Tony stated that it is uncertain if anything will be passed by Thanksgiving, as everyone hoped last week. We have already contacted Commonwealth Libraries regarding the state budget and we received a waiver for not sending our 12% or meeting our financial effort.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Mary Rennie):

The county budget was passed this week. We asked for more money in our per diem line to open branches more and to use as a shift relief factor. We also asked for an Administrative Officer position. Both requests were approved for 2016. We are very grateful that the County Executive has been so supportive of the library. Please send a thank you to the County Council person you represent. However, we understand the very hard decision of approving a tax increase. Dr. Garvey commented that the Library is one of the best things the county offers for all citizens who are tax payers.

We are moving along with the Blasco redesign and the Erie Regional Library Foundation is moving ahead with fundraising. We are moving along with the strategic plan which should be done by the end of the year.

The Board commends Mary for her tenacity in fighting for the Library.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS (Erin Wincek):

Our number of programs offered in October was up 81% over October, 2014 and attendance was up 41%. We are looking at redoing the statistics and what we report for 2016. Mary thanked Erin for all the hard work she has done implementing these new programs. Erin commended the librarian staff for all their hard work putting these new programs together. We are working on a brochure for the Idea Lab for 2016.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT CONSULTANT (Tony Keck)

January is when all libraries receive their state aid so if the budget is not settled soon, we will start seeing more problems with libraries. On December 5th the Cochran Area Library is dedicating their new library. Tony has been asked to speak. Doreen Nelson is retiring as Director of Stone Library in Conneautville and Beth Schaaf is retiring as Director of Waterford Public Library. Each of the Independent Libraries receive a grant from the county each year, which will be the same as this year. The Corry Public Library received the distinction by library journal of “star library”. Only three libraries in Pennsylvania received this distinction.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

The Nominating Committee presented a slate of officers of:

Joe Mineo – President

Mary Scutella – Vice President

Dr. Garvey made a motion to elect Joe Mineo as President and Mary Scutella as Vice President of the Library Advisory Board. Jackie Breakstone seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Congratulations to both of you!

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Your packet is full of newspaper clippings!

BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES:

Several board members have participated in the Strategic Plan and the plan will be brought to the Board for approval in January.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

We have not heard back from Doug Smith on the approval of Diane Papesch’s second term.

Christine Matheis has resigned from the board due to a change in her job. We received an email this week with the appointment of Trevor Pearson to replace Christine.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mary Scutella made a motion to keep the Library Advisory Board meetings on the Third Thursday of each month at noon. Mary Frances Baugh seconded the motion. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Due to the fact that we have not had a quorum at the last two Decembers board meetings, we are going to cancel the December meeting. We will look to do the lunch in January.

The board will send a resolution congratulating Corry Public Library on receiving Star Library Status.

The next Advisory Board meeting is January 18, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.