

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

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**THURSDAY, September 21, 2017  
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Diane Papesch called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Liz Allen, Julie Theiss-Boam, Heather Canfield, Kathleen Keys, Elspeth Koehle, Diane Papesch.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Daria Devlin, Trevor Pearson.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Library: Erin Wincek, Executive Director; Patrice Berchtold, Administrative Officer; Sheryl Thomas, Blasco Coordinator, Marcia Wilking, District Consultant; Carol Gettinger, President, Friends of the Library.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

None – No minutes to approve. August – no quorum – unofficial minutes.

**HEARING OF CITIZENS:** None.

**REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL LIAISON:** None.

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY UPDATE (Carol Gettinger):**

Carol reported that the Friends held a book collection last week and they received a lot of books. The Friends were notified that they will not be able to use Villa Gym for next year's Great American Book Sale. They are in the process of finding another venue. Board members suggested the Catholic Schools and also to contact Daria Devlin regarding the Erie City Schools. Carol stated that they are also in contact with the Millcreek schools to find out pricing.

**REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT (Erin Wincek):**

Erin reported that the library is on target for the remainder of the 2017 budget, however, we are overspent in the maintenance lines, which are managed by Operations at the Courthouse. The County has been able to save a substantial amount of money for 2018 health care costs due to wellness initiatives which resulted in healthier county employees. The savings to the library will be \$173,000, however this savings will affect our local financial effort.

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Erin Wincek):**

*ServeErie Project* – County Council approved the ordinance to allow the library to donate some furniture to the Erie School District. Representatives from Erie High School came last week to pick up pieces of our circulation desk for their library.

*Erie Gives Day* – The money raised this year will go to a space in the children's room which they will be calling the STREAM room (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, Math). A forum will be conducted to include the community and patrons to see what they would like to include in this space. This project should begin in 2018.

*Phase 2* – Phase 2 of the Blasco renovations will begin in 2018 and include the new Teen Space, AV and New Materials.

*Skylight* – The skylight is on hold right now because it is getting late in the year and weather will be a concern. The possibility of doing it in the spring is being explored.

*Grant applications* – The library has received notice that they have been awarded the Teen Reading Lounge Grant from the PA Humanities Council. This grant will focus on youth of color and low income youth. Several library staff and Diane Papesch will head to Harrisburg next week for a training session regarding this grant. We have not heard anything about the Turning Outward Grant, through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries. We have received notice that our application has moved onto the review stage for the Google Grant. The library will be collaborating with the Jefferson Society and Erie Arts and Culture on an immigration grant.

*Phase 1* – The library will be opening the new space on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 5-6:30 for a sneak peek private opening, and a public ribbon cutting on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am, followed by tours and equipment demonstrations. A press release will be published on Monday. A committee has met regarding the planning of both events. Construction is almost finished and furniture should begin arriving the beginning of October. Erin showed the board several samples of the logo for the Idea Lab and asked for opinions.

*Annual Survey* – We are receiving a lot of survey responses and we are giving out bumper stickers or clings for anyone who completes the survey. Results will be coming soon.

#### **STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS (Sheryl Thomas):**

Summer reading program statistics showed 7,282 participants registered this year and 35,510 hours of reading were completed. Of those hours, 14,120 were completed by children over the summer! Sheryl, Erin and Shane went to our two satellite branches at the Housing Authority (John Horan Garden Apartments and Erie Heights) for a meeting about our continued collaboration. Digital circulation was up 36% from August, 2016 and 225 juvenile cards were issued last month, up 28% from 2016. Two of our databases saw a significant jump with Universal Class jumping 84% and Issues & Controversies up 102% from last year. Our program with the highest number of attendees was Youtheatre Playhouse “The Velveteen Rabbit” with 175 attendees.

#### **REPORT OF THE DISTRICT CONSULTANT (Marcia Wilking):**

Marcia reported that she and Erin attended the DLC last week, which is a training for district centers. The State Library Code was revised in 2012 and now regulations need to be updated. There will be hearings across the state and input into these regulations. At this training, all district centers received new resources of robots, pre-fab programming kits and Cruise Into Kindergarten resources through a program for kindergarten readiness. Work is being done on workforce development through Career Link and their mobile services.

#### **REPORT OF COMMITTEES:**

Nomination Committee: A slate of officers needs to be prepared for a vote at the November board meeting. There was discussion about this committee and a slate of officers was decided on and will be presented at the October meeting.

#### **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

A packet with newspaper clippings and communications was received by all present.

**BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**The next Advisory Board meeting is October 19, 2017.**

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