

**February 21, 2023**

The Marion Public Library Board of Trustees met Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 6 p.m. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Library Program Room of the Marion Public Library. Present were Mr. Cline, Ms. Sumpter, Mr. Lutton, Mrs. Pogue, and Dr. Case. Jonie Riddle and Mary Eckerle were also present. Ms. Ketcham and Mrs. Nicholson were absent. This meeting was zoomed without any viewers.

An Executive session dealing with personnel issues was held beginning at 6 p.m. This meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m. Zoom was then started.

Library Board President Jeremy Case called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

On motion of Ms. Sumpter, seconded by Mr. Cline, the minutes of the January 17 meeting and the January 17 Board of Finance meetings were unanimously approved.

On motion of Ms. Sumpter, seconded by Mr. Cline, the Treasurer's report and payment of the dockets were unanimously accepted and payment authorized. The register of claims is made a part of these minutes.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$2,667,972.70 in the Library Operating Fund as of January 31, 2023.

**Business:**

**Financial Information:** W-2 forms were distributed in a timely manner in January. 1099's were also distributed. The Budget order for Grant County (and all counties) was sent in January.

Edward Jones: The following dividends were deposited in the Webster Gift Fund on February 1, 2023

Mondelez Intl Inc	3,292.91
Philip Morris Intl	15,697.20
Altria Group Inc	11,618.40
Kraft Heinz	1,140.40

**Annual Reports:** Mary Eckerle and Jonie Riddle are nearing completion of the Annual Report that goes to the State Board of Accounts and the Annual Report that goes to the Indiana State Library. There is also a Debt Management form. Jonie Riddle also completed the 100R report. Monthly reports must be uploaded to the State Board of Accounts.

From the Annual Report to the State Library: MPL is in Congressional District 5 and is a Class B Library. The Library Building was built in 1991. The Population of Marion in the 2020 census is 27,980. Databases available from MPL: Ancestry Library Edition, AtoZ, Auto Repair Source, Basic ESL, Heritage Quest Online, Indiana Disability Rights, Newsbank, Novelist Plus, Newspaper.com, New England Ancestors, NuWave Legal Documents, Tumblebooks, TumbleMath, Universal Class, Value Line and the Indiana History & Genealogy Database.

**Policy Review:** 1. Circulation Policy, Computer Use & Internet Policy, Credit Card Policy, and Criminal Background Check Policy. On motion of Mrs. Pogue, seconded by Mr. Lutton, the Board unanimously adopted these policies with the suggested changes.

**Board Meeting Public Comment Form:** On motion of Mr. Cline, seconded by Mr. Lutton, the Board Meeting Public Comment Form was unanimously adopted.

**Library attorney:** Michael Hotz has presented an "Agreement for Legal Services" for 2023. The Board may choose to retain his services again this year. His rate continues to be \$1700 for 20 hours of work. On motion of Mr. Cline, seconded by Mr. Lutton, the Board unanimously approved Michael Hotz as the Board attorney at the \$1700 rate for 20 hours of work.

**Non-resident fee:** IC 36-12-2-25 © Except as provided in subsections (d) and (e); a library board must set and charge a fee for a local library card issued under subsection (b) (2). The minimum fee that the board may set under this subsection is the greater of the following: 1) The library district's operating fund expenditure per capita in the most recent year for which that information is available in the Indiana State Library's annual "Statistics of Indiana Libraries". 2) Twenty-five dollars (\$25). Marion Public Library's Operating Fund Expenditures per capita was \$57.54, according to the 2022 Annual Report. The current non-resident fee is \$60.. The Library Board can keep the fee as is or lower it. The non-resident fee was not raised or lowered last year. New figures reflect latest census information. On motion of Mr. Cline, seconded by Ms. Sumpter, the Board unanimously approved keeping the non-resident fee at \$60 per year.

**Webster Gift Fund:** For the past few years, the use of the Webster Gift Fund has helped ease the burden of the Library's Operating Fund. There was discussion on the continued use of the WGF. A Resolution Authorizing the Use of the Webster Gift Fund in Budget year 2023 was presented for Board consideration and signatures. This was passed by consensus and the Board members signed the Resolution.

**Slip and Slide Insurance claim from January 2022:** Mary Eckerle reported that this claim had been settled for \$18,204. The insurer (Federated Insurance) contributed to the settle and Selective Insurance paid \$9,352.91.

**Salary Plan and Resolution:** The 2023 Salary Plan and Resolution was presented. The proposal was for a 5% raise for all staff except the library director. On motion of Mr. Cline, seconded by Ms. Sumpter, the 5% raise (except for the director) and the Salary Plan were unanimously approved.

**Strategic Plan:** The current MPL Strategic Plan expired at the end of 2022. Mrs. Eckerle is currently working with another library director to use a different rubric for a new plan. In the meantime the most recent plan continue into 2023 until the new plan is completed. This was approved by consensus of the Board.

**Jay House and Museum:** Mary Eckerle reported that Wendy Puffer and the Marion Design Company will still be in the Jay House at least until April. Also, Collen Cramer and Kelsey Winters are working on some grant applications through the Indiana Historical Society.

**Director's Report:** The following report was approved by consensus of the Board.

**Materials and Services:** Statistics were presented at the meeting.

**Staff:** There were no staff changes this past month.

**Travel & Meetings:** April 1, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Rhonda Stoffer, Registration, and mileage.

**Snow day:** The Library closed on Wednesday, January 25 due to snow.

**Properties:** 1) Roger Marx is building a new partition for the Teen Room; 2) A Boiler failed when it lost all of its water. Roger Marx and Paul Burritt spent many hours trying to figure out and solve the problem – and succeeded; and 3) A new snowblower was purchased. The Library has two of them and this particular one was very old and parts weren't available.

**Children's/Youth Services:** 1) The Read to the Dogs program for January was very popular with families and this will continue throughout the year. There was good coverage about this program in the *Chronicle-Tribune*; 2) Storytime numbers are increasing each week and the Children's team is considering adding another one; and 3) The Grab and Go for February is a Heart Clip Craft.

**Reference Services/Adult Programming:** 1) The monthly book discussion, hosted by Sheri Sharlow, continues to have good numbers and good discussions; 2) The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting rooms continue to be very busy; 3) Barbara Dixon makes sure that upstairs displays are timely and inviting; and 4) There will be a craft time on March 15 from 10:30-12:30 in the Program Room. We are going to be making Button Bouquets. All materials will be provided.

**Indiana History and Genealogy:** 1) Rhonda Stoffer spoke to the Monday Conversation Club on January 20. There were ten women present; and 2) Update on the county records digitization project: work on the project is winding down with 5,190 packets completed. Staff completed 337 packets in January and the time period right now is 1933. Mrs. Stoffer met with Janet Frey from FamilySearch and Kim Walker who is the contractor from Iron Mountain who will be doing the scanning. They brought equipment on February 8 to set up at the courthouse. They are on schedule to complete the unfolding of the packets by the end of the month, 16 months after the projects started.

**Circulation:** 1) Natalie Garner is current weeding the Adult Fiction collection. Books that have not been checked out for the last 8 years are being weeded; and 2) Barbara Dixon, Michelle Morgan and Mary Eckerle have previewed the Mango Languages database and plan to purchase it for the Library.

**Museum:** 1) The Carnegie Lecture Series resumed on February 2 with a presentation by Bill Munn entitled *On Solid Ground: Grant County Resident Gerard Polycarp Riley*; 2) Kelsey Winters has joined museum staff; 3) Plans are being formulated for a 20<sup>th</sup> Century Weaver exhibition; 4) Kelsey Winters and Collen Cramer met with Tashema Davis about having her present a painting program in the museum; 5) A Carnegie Lecture is schedule for March 11 Diane Hunter from the Miami nation will be the presenter with the topic, *The Miami People: Life and Culture*; and e) New donations have come into the museum for review.

**Technical Services:** 1) The 2023 budgets are open, and ordering has begun again; 2) Many collections are currently being weeded so there are a lot of books coming through Technical Services; and 3) The Spanish collection was re-cataloged and is now more user friendly.

**Teen Department:** 1) Madisyn Timmons has been doing a wonderful job of creating displays for the Teen room; and 2) Attendance for teen programs has been low, but, with the holidays over, numbers might improve.

**Network Manager:** 1) Paul Burritt is preparing for Windows 11; and 2) MPL and Mr. Burritt will host an all-day NICCL meeting on March 28.

**Marketing:** Collen Cramer visited with Big John on WBAT in early February to drum up interest in the Carnegie Lecture series.

**United Way:** Mary Eckerle met with LeeAnna Smith, Executive Director of United Way Grant County on January 23. The United Way is hoping to resurrect the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in Grant County. Partial funding might be coming from the State. A recent bill in the Indiana State Legislature would bring the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to the entire state. This bill passed unanimously out of the Senate education committee. The local United Way also hopes to place StoryWalks throughout Grant County.

**AARP:** Tax help is underway as of February 1. Lots of phone calls. Lots of appointments.

**Friends:** The Friends Spring Book Sale is scheduled for Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22. Friends had applied for and received a 501©3 status in 2022. The Friends group has only met a few times since COVID but plans to meet regularly beginning in March 2023.

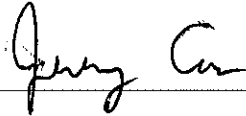

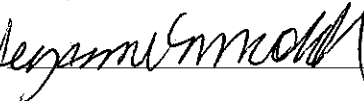
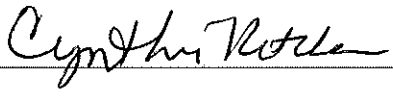
**SOS:** 1) There are two prospective buyers for the Firestone Building on Washington St. There has been no official offer to purchase it. Firestone has set stipulations that it can't be sold and used for a daycare, eldercare, or anything related to cars; and 2) Plans are underway for a larger meeting to be held at the Gethsemane Church in order to attract new members to the SOS Board. From Collen Cramer.

**Grant County Historical Society:** The first meeting of the year was Wednesday, February 15. Norma Johnson gave a brief 25-minute presentation, which was well received. There were nineteen in attendance. Four of the attendees came because they saw the post in the Chronicle Tribune and all four joined the Society before leaving. Yay! An additional 5 people registered for the GCHS dinner. We discussed the new edition of Traces Magazine and Ray Boomhower being the editor in Chief and prolific writer of *all things Hoosier History*, as well as our presenter for the annual dinner April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Tomahawk. Registration forms are in the Indiana Room and can also be found at the Society's website: [grantcountyinhistory.org](http://grantcountyinhistory.org) We have a program or activity planned for each month we meet in 2023. It was nice to see Kay Dougherty back post-plague, but John and Patty Bradley have both battled illnesses since early December. They hope to back to full health by the March meeting. I will be contacting all Grant county high school social studies teachers in the coming week to let them know about GCHS meetings and programs and to spread the word that we now offer a student rate membership. Bob and Janice Miller are contacting history professors at Taylor and IWU. I am looking for a contact for IVY Tech. If I don't find someone with a foot in that door, I'll research that avenue. More upcoming: Nominations have been made for the Board for the coming election in April. We have tabled discussions about the Marion Pictorial book as it is a huge endeavor and we need to bolster our membership before undertaking that behemoth. I have a couple of people who plan to submit a story or two for the newsletter. That will be much appreciated because it is a big task for one person. Whew! We are pleased with our progress. From Renee Bissell-Cole.

**Community Outreach:** 1) Mary Eckerle was a guest reader at Justice Middle School on January 30 to kick off World Reading Week; 2) A Red Cross Blood Drive is now schedule for June 6; and 3) Collen Cramer will speak at some classes at Taylor University this spring.

**Appreciations:** "Rhonda, On behalf of the Monday Conversation Club, I want to thank you for spending time with us and sharing resources. The ladies learned lots and enjoyed sharing stories. You made a cold January afternoon better! Sincerely, Sue Bratton."

**Adjournment/Next meeting:** Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

 \_\_\_\_\_ President  \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Member  \_\_\_\_\_ Member