

October 17, 2023

The Marion Public Library Board of Trustees met Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 6 p.m. in the second floor Library Program Room of the Marion Public Library. Present were Mrs. Nicholson, Dr. Case, Ms. Ketcham, Mr. Lutton, and Ms. Sumpter. Jonie Riddle and Mary Eckerle were also present. Mr. Cline joined the meeting via zoom. Mrs. Pogue was absent. There were no other viewers on zoom.

Library Board President Jeremy Case called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

On motion of Ms. Sumpter, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson, the minutes of the September 19, 2023, meeting was unanimously approved.

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

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$2,930,064.50 in the Library Operating Fund as of September 30, 2023.

Business:

Budget 2024 adoption: The 2024 budget will be reviewed and adopted for sending to the Department of Local Government Finance through the Gateway online portal. There was no objection to the published 2024 budget at the public hearing, and a motion is needed to adopt the budget resolution at \$2,397,400 for the Library Operating Fund, \$2,397,400 amount to be raised, tax rate of 0.2680; \$100,000 for the Library Improvement Reserve Fund, and \$75,000 for the Rainy-Day Fund. As recommended by the Department of Local Government Finance, there will be a resolution to be signed confirming the published tax rates for 2023 (these will not be the actual tax rates because assessed valuation figures have not yet been finalized). There will also be a resolution to reduce the Library Improvement Reserve Fund by \$20,000. On motion of Ms. Ketcham, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson, the Board unanimously adopted the 2023 budget and accepted the Resolution to reduce the Library Improvement Reserve Fund and the Resolution adopting the tax rates. The LIRF Resolution is submitted on Gateway. Since Form 4 of the Budget has the tax rates, the Resolution on tax rates will go into the Board minutes.

Director search: 1) Mary Eckerle has submitted her resignation effective December 31, 2023. On motion of Ms. Sumpter, seconded by Mr. Cline, the Board unanimously accepted her resignation; and 2) A Search Committee was proposed to lead the search for the new library director. The following people have agreed to serve on it: Mike Cline, Cindy Ketcham, and Melissa Pogue with Jeremy Case, Board President, providing guidance. On motion of Ms. Sumpter, seconded by Mr. Cline, the Board voted in support of these people serving on the Committee with one vote against.

Jay House development: The application and brochure for the Jay House is complete and the House is ready for promotion.

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

Materials and Services: Statistics were presented at the meeting.

Staff: 1) Sean Harnett will be full-time beginning November 1. Sean has been at the Library since 2022 and has hours in Circulation, the Reference department and also has learned IT; and 2) Jami Beck, Children's department, submitted her resignation effective November 15. She and family are moving to Fort Wayne. The job opening will be posted in the next week.

Travel & Meeting: 1) September 28, Green Wave Recycling and Piedmont Plastics, Indianapolis, Roger Marx, mileage; and 2) October 11, Indianapolis, Collen Cramer took materials for the Indiana Historical Society grant to a Signature Conservations conservator in Indianapolis.

Properties: 1) Roger Marx took a load of computers, monitors, switches, and other IT stuff to the Indy recycling center; and 2) Mr. Marx removed and raised the curb section near the south alley approach and seal coated the concrete pad around the parking lot drains.

Circulation: 1) September was National Library Card Sign-up Month. Circulation staff issued 117 new library cards and many patrons also updated their cards; 2) Recca Black and Michelle Morgan represented the Circulation department at the Taste of Marion event at IWU on September 1; and 3) Garfield visitors came from Germany, Maryland, South Dakota, and Michigan in the month of September.

Reference Services/Adult Programming: 1) Cheri St. Clair presented a fall class on creative journaling on September 8; and 2) A fall craft program was held on the 20th. Patron did leaf rubbings on parchment which they then painted with watercolors.

Upcoming adult programs:
Scrapbook Paper Pumpkin: October 18
Ghostly Vintage Photos – October 25
Bob Ross Experience – October 28

Interlibrary Loan: This service is seeing gradual improvement.

Indiana History and Genealogy: 1) Update on the county records digitization project: Currently 2,413 record books and probate files have been uploaded to FamilySearch.org. Rhonda Stoffer was able to use those images to find a probate file for a researcher in Florida last week; 2) A group from Taylor's film class visited Indiana History and also met with Collen Cramer. They are filming a documentary about Samuel Plato; and 3) Indiana History staff are viewing webinars from the Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library this month.

Technical Services: 1) Kristen Gioe helped the Circulation Department redo the series they keep behind the desk. They now take up less room and are where patrons can access them; 2) She has also been going through all of the records for TV series and making the titles uniform. This makes it easier for staff and patrons to find what they are seeking; 3) Mrs. Gioe placed a large nonfiction order for the Children's Department and a large video games order – this collection's circulation has increased.

Children's/Youth Services: 1) Preparation for the Battle of the Books is going to start gearing up. The Battle will take place on November 11. There is a team of readers reading the books and writing questions. These will be pulled together for the Battle; 2) The Grab and Go craft for September was a fall wreath; 3) There were 17 programs during September; d) The Justice Life Skills class visited for a story and craft; and e) Tyanna Jones will host a Children's and Teen Roundtable on Thursday, October 26 at MPL.

Museum: 1) Staff continue to do inventory in the museum; 2) Collen Cramer has accessioned some new objects for the collection; 3) The History Center hosted the "Talkin' Politics" event to 48 people; 4) A new intern started at the museum in September; and 5) An October Event with Bill Munn will be held on Friday, October 27.

Teen Department: 1) Dungeons and Dragons has a core group of kids that love it; there were two successful programs in September and two scheduled in October. Thanks to the collection of D & D books on the second floor, the dungeon master, Rachel, has plenty of new ideas for the upcoming season; and 2) September displays included one on "Cozying up with a book for Fall."

Network Manager: The wireless system has been updated. Still waiting for the switch for the Jay House to be installed.

With cybersecurity threats on the rise, the Network Manager and Director are taking additional steps to protect the computers and network.

Marketing: Kelsey Winters and Collen Cramer were guests on WBAT on Thursday, October 4.

Staff Inservice: The Inservice is scheduled for Thursday, November 30. A staff committee is choosing topics. Proposed topics include Book bans, Customer Service, Homelessness, and the State of the Neighborhood. In addition, several Emergency Procedures will be presented and reviewed.

High School Interns: Interns from Marion Career Center are here Thursdays and Fridays to assist patrons on technology issues as well as learning about the various library departments. One will be located at the Reference desk on the second floor, and one will be in the museum.

Friends Book sale: The Friends of the Marion Public Library and Museum will have the Fall Booksale on Friday, November 3 and Saturday, November 4.

Little Free Library celebration: The Friends group held a celebration at the Hostess House to honor those who have built, fixed, maintained, and refilled the Little Free Libraries in the area. Mary Eckerle and Ruthann will report on this.

Candidate Forum: The Candidate Forum, held on October 5, drew 11 candidates and 150 people. It was live streamed on Facebook and on some local radio stations.

SOS: An Octoberfest event is scheduled for Friday, October 20 at the Firestone Building.

Grant County Historical Society (reported by Renee Bissell-Cole):

Just a quick reminder that Bill Munn will present the 2nd in a 4-part series of Grant County History on Oct 18 in the Forrest Room at 6:30pm.

GCHS will be at the Matter Park Fall Fest on Oct 21 from 4-7pm.

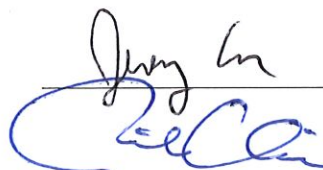
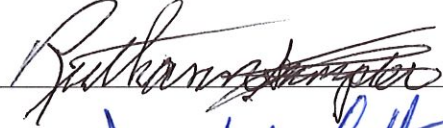
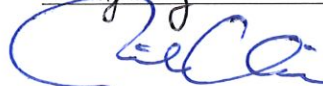
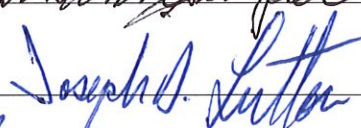


Cathy Shouse is re-booked to give her presentation on The History of Fairmount Nov 15 at 6:30pm in mtg room B.

GCHS will travel to Wells County Dec 3rd from 2-6pm to tour their historical society's museum, which will be decorated for the holiday season.

Community Outreach: 1) The Neighborhood Cleanup on September 23 had 30 volunteers; 2) The Stand Down for Veterans was held at the YMCA on October 5. Seven staff participated; 3) Marion Public Library co-sponsored a Main Street Marion meeting on Wednesday, October 11; 4) Staff wore Purple for Domestic Abuse Awareness on October 12; and 5) There will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, October 20.

Appreciations: 1) IWU sent a note thanking MPL staff for participating in Taste of Marion again this year; and 2) LeeAnna Smith from United Way thanked MPL for hosting a Day of Action volunteer team.

Adjournment/Next meeting: Tuesday, November 21, 2023.

 _____ President  _____ Secretary
 _____ Member  _____ Member
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