

September 19, 2023

The Marion Public Library Board of Trustees met Tuesday, September 19, 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, Ms. Sumpter, Mrs. Pogue, and Mr. Cline. Jonie Riddle and Mary Eckerle were also present. Mr. Burritt, Network Manager, was also present. There were no viewers on zoom.

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

The first item of business was the **Public Hearing** on the 2024 budget. No members of the public were present. At this time, by motion of Mr. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Cline, the Public Hearing meeting was unanimously adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Cline, seconded by Ms. Ketcham, the minutes of the August 15, 2023, meeting was unanimously approved.

On motion of Mr. Cline, seconded by Ms. Ketcham, 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 \$3,005,035.45 in the Library Operating Fund as of August 30, 2023

Business:

Budget 2024: The advertised budget was posted on the Gateway site on August 24. The advertised budget is also available on the Library's website and was also on the Library's Facebook page. The Public Hearing on the budget will also be available on Zoom.

Finance: Typically, staff are asked to cut spending in the last part of each year so the year can end with a healthy balance. This does not include purchase of books and other materials, nor does it include necessary expenditures.

LIT issue: The Grant County Council passed an ordinance to redistribute Local Income Tax allotments of each municipality into a new Public Safety Fund. Marion Public Library's estimate was the removal of around \$52,000 from its yearly LIT payments. The County Council needed sufficient votes from the Grant County Tax Council to pass this Ordinance. Both the Marion City Council and the City Council of Gas City passed on either voting yay or nay to this measure and the Ordinance died. It was also determined that the County Council did not follow the Indiana Code by not properly advertising this measure and also by not notifying the municipalities involved that this was coming. County Council President Shane Middlesworth said that he votes the Council can revive the measure next year.

Jay House development: The Jay House is almost ready for public use. Still waiting to hear from attorney Michael Hotz who is reviewing all paperwork.

Wireless: There has been some discussion about turning off the Wireless outside the buildings while the Library is closed. This is mostly due to graffiti, litter, and people milling around the courtyard by the parking lot. Mr. Burritt and Mrs. Morgan propose turning it off from 9 pm until 7 am at least for a month to see if this improves the situation. On motion of Ms. Ketcham, seconded by Ms. Sumpter, the wireless for the outside areas will be turned off between the hours of 9 pm and 7 am for 30 days in order to see whether or not this affects the outdoor situation.

Covid: Covid is back. Sanitation efforts and prevention health measures are advised for building staff. The Health Department donated Covid testing kits to MPL. They will be available for staff and patrons.

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

Materials and Services: Statistics were presented at the meeting.

Staff: No staff changes during August. Mary Eckerle, Library Director, indicated that she will submit a letter of resignation effective at the end of 2023.

Travel & Meeting: September 19, Peabody Library, Columbia City, NICCL Member meeting, Paul Burritt, mileage.

Board member Reappointment: J.D. Lutton's first term ends on December 31, 2023. He is eligible to be reappointed for three more terms. He is a Marion Community School Board appointee.

Properties: 1) Roger Marx worked in the Jay House to get it cleaned up after Marion Design company left; and 2) Mr. Marx painted Meeting Room B and it looks wonderful.

Circulation: 1) August was another busy month for issuing new library cards. Circulation staff issued 112 new adult cards and 9 juvenile cards; 2) Garfield visitors came from Hawaii, Utah, Iowa, and Texas this month; 3) Staff worked on weeding the nonfiction audiobook collection; and 4) Circulation collected donations for the Grant County Humane Society during the summer months. Staff and patrons donated a total of \$227.62.

September is Library Card Sign up month. During the summer months, Circulation issued many new cards. Outreach to the schools still needs to be a focus. Some people who get new cards are appreciative of Hoopla and Libby and the online databases.

Reference Services/Adult Programming: 1) The Grant County Art Association members only show was held in August. Beautiful art pieces were showcased; 2) Sean Harnett and Barbara Dixon attended a program at the State Library featuring Solar Eclipse Activities. Lots of ideas for next April's Eclipse; 3) Twelve people made paper dahlias for the August craft session; and 4) Displays during August featured indigenous peoples, Elvis, Hiroshima & Nagasaki, Back to school, dogs, and miniature landmarks.

Interlibrary Loan: The courier service that picks up and delivers interlibrary loan materials throughout the state is still in disarray. The most recently hired service has been terminated and the former service reinstated. There is still a backlog of items that MPL is due to receive. The State Librarian hopes the situation is resolved by the beginning of October.

Indiana History and Genealogy: 1) Update of the county records digitization project: Currently, 2,116 record books and probate files have been uploaded to FamilySearch.org; and 2) Indiana History room volunteers continue to work on several projects.

Technical Services: Kristen Gioe attended the INSIRSI meeting on August 18 in Avon. She learned updates on SirsiDynix and what is happening at other libraries. One takeaway from this meeting is that MPL should look into switching back to OCLC for cataloging records. SkyRiver currently has MPL's holding but OCLC offers a more robust system.

Children's/Youth Services: 1) The Grab & Go craft for August was a pencil topper; 2) There were ten programs during the month of August; 3) In August, Children's staff attended the Back-to School night at Frances Slocum Elementary. They gave away pencils, bookmarks, and coloring sheets.

Museum: 1) The History Center hosted Indiana Landmarks historian Paul Hayden for a Carnegie Lecture on Historical Landmarks on August 24; 2) The History Center and the Library hosted Indiana Humanities

scholar Ava y Tomasula Garcia on August 28; 3) The History Center now has promotional postcards; 4) Plans continue for the Black History exhibit; and e5) Staff is processing items obtained (saved) from Weaver Popcorn in Van Buren.

The History Center will present "Talkin' Politics: An evening of stories with Ed Breen, Mike Cline, and Phil Loy." Thursday, September 28 @ 6 pm. Forrest Room in the History Center @ MPL.

Teen Department: 1) With school starting, attendance slowed a lot in August. Madisyn Timmons is thinking of some programming changes that might help boost attendance during the school year. She is also hoping to start a Teen book club in the coming Winter or Spring; 2) Dungeons and Dragons will start back up with a 4-session campaign in September. Still have interest from college age and adults; maybe this could be added at some point also; and 3) August displays included "Try the first book in one of these series!"

Network Manager: 1) The new wi-fi system is up and running. This is part of the E-Rate program for this year; 2) The new firewall should be installed soon by ENA. This is part of the e-rate as well; and 3) Old and no longer functioning computers and related items will be taken to a recycling center in Indianapolis.

Marketing: Mary Eckerle spoke about August activities on Good morning, Grant County on September 7.

Comfort/hygiene kits: There are now Comfort/hygiene kits available for patrons who need them. This idea has been tossed around for a long time. After a conversation with Linda Wilkes, she offered some donations from Hands of Hope as she had an overflow of some of the items. Madisyn Timmons allowed the use of a room in the Teen area. United Way volunteers filled them, and they are ready to go.

United Way: 1) Six members of the Grant County Democratic Party volunteered their time at the Library and History Center on September 14. They put together Comfort/care kits and also dusted (much needed) in the museum; and 2) Ruthann Sumpter and Mary Eckerle represented the Library at United Way's "Ignite" event on September 14 held at the Gas City Park. It was a beautiful evening with lots of participation from local organizations.

Candidate Forum: A Candidate Forum will be held at MPL on Thursday, October 5 from 6 pm to 9 pm. This is being hosted by the Chronicle-Tribune and the Greater Grant County Chamber of Commerce "in cooperation with the Marion Public Library" (these are the C-T's words). The candidates for Mayor and City Council are invited.

Job Fair: WorkOne will have a Job Fair at MPL on October 26. They have ten employees lined up so far. The Veterans Administration also plans to attend with government job openings.

Grants: 1) It appears that the Charm grant will not be awarded this cycle due to the Grant County Economic Growth Council's inaction (This organization is in transition); and 2) Mr. Burritt and Kelsey Winters applied for a grant from the NICCL organization. They hope to get a 3D printer for the Library/History Center.

SOS: (reported by Collen Cramer): SOS is planning an Oktoberfest event to be held on Friday, October 20 in the former Firestone building across the street. 7th Street between Adams and Nebraska will be closed off. There will be live entertainment and food trucks.

Grant County Historical Society (reported by Renee Bissell-Cole): In August GCHS set up a booth and display at the Pettiford-Weaver Reunion and had another booth and display at the Farmers Market on the Square.

On our calendar:

Sep 20- Cathy Shouse is presenting the history of Fairmount in meeting room B.

Oct 18- Bill Munn is presenting Part II of a four-part series on the history of Grant County in the Forrest Room.

Oct 21- We will have a booth w/display at Matter Park's Fall Fest 4-7pm. This is such a nice evening.

GCHS will be touring the Wells County Historical Society Museum in early December. The date will not be solidified until next week. It is free though we will make a modest donation.

We've booked three presentations for 2024 so far and I have locked in the Country Club/Tomahawk and the program for the annual dinner in April, which will be open to the public. Bob Sander, co-founder of Storytelling Arts of Indiana, will entertain us with stories of multiple generations growing up in Indiana and interact with the crowd. Registration required.

Community Outreach: 1) Local schools have Family nights beginning in August and continuing through September and October. When the Children's Department gets an invite, they accept because it is important that families know of MPL's services and programs. It is always delightful when the children come in with family as a result of meeting Library staff members at their schools; 2) Marion Public Library is part of the Historic Marion Neighborhood Association. There will be a Neighborhood cleanup on Saturday, September 23 from 9 am to 12 noon. There will be a dumpster in the parking lot of the First United Methodist Church. Hopefully, the Neighborhood will sparkle after the cleanup; and 3) African refugees: There are some families moving into the old Branson Club at the corner of 8th and Boots (formerly owned by Grant Blackford). They are African refugees coming from different countries in Africa. This is a project of Chris Kennedy (Hartson Kennedy and Marion Design Co)., He has worked on this in Indianapolis too. there will be three-bedroom apartments there. These people will assimilate into the community. Afena Credit Union is assisting them with financial matters. Hopefully, the library can be of assistance to them.

Adjournment/Next meeting: Tuesday, October 17, 2023. At this meeting, the 2024 budget will be adopted.

_____ President _____ Secretary

_____ Member _____ Member