

June 15, 2021

The Marion Public Library Board of Trustees met Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 6 p.m. in the 2nd floor Library Program Room of the Marion Public Library. Present were Mrs. Nicholson, Mr. Breen, Mr. Cline, Ms. Sumpter, Mrs. Cline, Mr. Lutton and Dr. Case. Also present were Jonie Riddle and Mary Eckerle. This meeting was zoomed, and one member of the public attended via the zoom link.

Ms. Sumpter called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

On motion of Mr. Breen, seconded by Mr. Cline, the minutes of the June 15, 2021, meeting was unanimously approved.

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

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$1,460,221.99 in the Library Operating Fund as of May 31, 2021.

New Business:

Travel, meeting attendance: On motion of Mr. Breen, seconded by Mr. Cline, attendance, travel, and related expenses were unanimously approved for the following meetings: 1) May 26, Wabash, Wabash County Museum, Sue Bratton, Mary Eckerle, mileage; 2) June 16, Warsaw, NICCL meeting, Paul Burritt, mileage; and 3) August 3-5, online, Digipalooza, Joe Fox, Michelle Morgan, Joanne Hix, Christina Rowland, registration.

Budget Preparation: The Budget 2022 season has begun. Jonie Riddle and Mary Eckerle attended an Indiana State Library workshop on May 27 with presentations from the Department of Local Government Finance and the State Board of Accounts. For the past few years, the Library has hosted DLGF Budget meetings with all the Grant County government entities. All meetings this summer will again be virtual. The meeting with the DLGF representative is scheduled for July 22.

Finances: The Library received its Spring property tax draw on June 7. Here is a comparison of the last few years' monies.

Property Tax draw - June 2017-2021

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
694,462.98	706,431.65	744,068.65	736,831.15	767,790.88

The Library also received a 2021 Supplemental Local Income Tax Distribution of \$2,532.00 on June 9. This money was receipted into the Library Operating Fund. (An explanation will be included with the agenda.

Policies: A revised Electronic Meeting Attendance Policy was presented. On motion of Mr. Cline, seconded by Mr. Breen, the board unanimously approved of this policy. Discussion also includes the use of Zoom as a way of having the public view a meeting. This will continue. Also, Mrs. Eckerle will revise and present a document allowing public participation during a board meeting.

Indiana History & Genealogy: Update on the county records digitization project: Pam Harris, Grant County Clerk, has signed the agreement to digitize with FamilySearch.org. I have gone through the records at the courthouse and have done a page count estimate and it will involve roughly 300,000 pages. The

probate packets will be part of the project so Rhonda Stoffer will be working on setting up procedures and recruiting volunteers to unfold and flatten the individual packets (approximately 5,000 of them) for scanning. The project has been placed on the schedule and the scanning team will hopefully be here in a few weeks.

American Rescue Plan: 1) Paul Burritt, Jonie Riddle and Mary Eckerle met with the representative from AdTec about monies available through the Erate program; 2) The Indiana State Library is still deciding parameters for the use of the money that will come to libraries; and 3) At this time, Mayor Alumbaugh has not convened the City's American Rescue Plan committee.

Fine-Free libraries: Joe Fox has provided some statistics. Mary Eckerle attended a webinar on June 15 dealing with fine-free libraries. Mrs. Eckerle has sought guidance from the Department of Local Government Finance about how going fine free would affect the budget process.

Outdoor Planning Committee: This committee has not yet met. The group is hoping to hear more on the American Rescue Plan monies as this might assist in planning.

Museum: Sue Bratton and Mary Eckerle have been working together to create a job description for the Head of Museum Services. It will be circulated beginning June 18 with resumes due on July 9. Also, Strategic Planning for the museum will begin sometime this summer.

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

Materials and Services: Statistics will be presented at the meeting.

Staff: Brandon Houser has turned in his resignation from the Reference Department effective June 29, 2021. He will attend law school at IU Bloomington this fall. A replacement is being sought.

Properties: 1) The service provider for the Library's pest control operation has retired, and Mr. Marx is interviewing other firms; 2) He is painting the Forrest Room in anticipation of the Quilters' visit in July; and 3) Roger Marx, Rhonda Stoffer, Sue Bratton, and Mary Eckerle met in the museum recently to make a list of cleaning needs to be accomplished before the museum reopens.

Bus Stop: The buses are running again. Staff is keeping a close watch on the shelter for signs of vandalism, lettering, drinking or disorderly behavior. Maintenance has hoped to install a security camera there but there is no easy way to do that. If loitering and littering continue, maintenance might keep the shelter but remove the bench.

Children's/Youth Services: 1) Outdoor storytimes are being held weather permitting. This Friday feature is gaining in popularity; 2) During April, there were 11 curbside deliveries and 400 grab and go crafts were assembled; 3) Currently, there are 393 readers signed up on the Reader Zone app; 4) Magician Daniel Lusk performed at the library instead of Matter Park due to rain; and 5) Upcoming programs include: Omotayo Drum Circle-June 11; Animals w/ Hedgehog Hannah-June 16; Sign Language Class-June 22; Music with Mr. Daniel-July 7; and the Summer STEAM in June, July and August.

Reference Services/Adult Programming: 1) MPL partnered with another library in Massachusetts for a Star Wars Trivia Night on May 4. It was held via Zoom and had 23 participants; 2) The Book Discussion group met May 12 with 12 in person attendees and 1 via Zoom; 3) Barbara Dixon and Sue Bratton have planned future displays using items from the museum; 4) During the month of May, Barbara Dixon and Christina Rowland planned the adult summer reading club; and May displays featured grilling, container gardening, racial equity, opening doors/summer reading, chickens, community Foundation scholarships, and SmartArt crafts.

Teen Programming: 82 teens have signed up for the Summer Reading Club.

Indiana History: 1) The Virtual Genealogy Club is meeting on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. June 10 was a sharing/question time. June 24 will be an Introduction to Genetic Genealogy with Steven Frank from the Central Indiana DNA Interest group; 2) Rhonda Stoffer has been asked by the Genealogy Center at Allen County to present a program for their virtual programming. She will do a program on “Using Facebook for Genealogy” on July 13; and 3) Rhonda Stoffer has submitted two articles for publication in the Indiana Genealogical Society’s *Indiana Genealogist*, and she is working on a third. These are transcriptions of items from early Marion newspapers.

Museum: 1) Sue Bratton and Mary Eckerle visited the Wabash County Museum and were able to obtain helpful information and insights from the museum’s director and archivist; 2) Sue Bratton and Mary Eckerle have prepared a job description for the new Head of Museum Services; and 3) Sue Bratton and Mary Eckerle will meet with the Board Museum Committee on June 16.

Circulation: The Hoopla Flex program is going well. Hoopla and Overdrive are being used and appreciated by patrons.

Head of Technical Services/System Administrator: 1) Joe Fox continues to work on digital cards; and 2) New borrower reports are being shared monthly; and 3) Joe Fox continues to find new ways to share information and statistics with the staff.

Network Manager: 1) As more groups are using the meeting rooms, Mr. Burritt is busy assisting with technology needs; 2) Wireless printing continues to be popular with patrons; and 3) Mr. Burritt is researching Multi-Factor Authentication as a means of tightening up network security.

Marketing: 1) Barbara Dixon and Mary Eckerle were on WBAT on June 4. They discussed summer events; and 2) The Chronicle-Tribune did a feature on Tashema Davis and her library presentation on June 10.

Indiana Humanities: 1) The *One State, One Story* grant was completed with the showing of the movie, *Hoosiers*, on June 5; 2) The exhibit from Miami of Ohio’s Art Institute was returned on June 1. Tashema Davis gave a program at the Library on September 8 and will return on September 22. This grant is almost complete.

Friends: The Friends Book Sale remained in the Connector for almost a month. The final amount of \$2534.39. The Friends group will also hold a fall book sale. Date tba.

Community Outreach: 1) Barbara Dixon gave a talk at the Senior Center on May 26 inviting the seniors to join the Summer Reading Club and participate in programming; 2) Several staff participated in Cancer Services’ virtual Walk of Hope on May 7; 3) The Boots Street Community Garden is being tended by some gentlemen from the Rescue Mission and the garden looks better than ever before; 3) A Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for Wednesday, June 23 from 12 noon to 5:30 p.m.; and 5) The Quilt Show is scheduled for July 15-17 and the Library and Museum will once again house some events.

Appreciations: Dear Mary, now that we all are getting somewhat back to “normal” I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for going above and beyond for all of us in the Community. Every day for more than a year you all were there in whatever way you could be to put as much calm and normalcy back in our lives. How kind and how creative you were! Every week it seemed like there was another way we could connect. We had contactless ways of getting what we needed and more. Kids who were scared (and their parents!) were read to! Video book reviews! Games! And most important information about anything under the sun helping us all with facts and not rumors. Talk about “essential workers”!!!

As a Mental Health Therapist, I can tell you that being able to “still have my library” was very important to sad, anxious, and lonely people in this community. Before I was a Therapist, I worked in libraries in many places large and small. After moving to Grant County, I have been so impressed by everything the library contributes to this community. You all deserve a parade...Sincerely, Deborah Pereira

Adjournment/Next meeting: Tuesday, August 17, at 6 p.m.

_____ President _____ Secretary

_____ Member _____ Member