

March 21, 2023

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

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 February 21 meeting was unanimously approved.

On motion of Ms. Ketcham, seconded by Ms. Sumpter, the Treasurer's report and payment of the docketts 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 \$2,603,463.54 in the Library Operating Fund as of February 28, 2023.

Business:

Request for Equipment: Rhonda Stoffer, Indiana History & Genealogy has submitted a request for a ViewScan 4 microfilm machine for \$14,109. Mary Eckerle shared information given by Mrs. Stoffer about the need for this machine. The Library's current microfilm machines are very old and parts are unavailable. Microfilm is still preferred over digitization by the State Archives. All of MPL's local film is heavily used and would be expensive to digitize so we will be using film for a long time. On motion of Ms. Sumpter, seconded by Ms. Ketcham, the Board unanimously authorized purchase of the ViewScan 4 microfilm machine with funds coming from the Erlewine Fund.

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission: IURC is planning on having a public field hearing on April 26 in Marion concerning Marion Municipal Water's petition for a change in rates and charges. They will use Meeting Room B. The Indemnification paragraph of the Meeting Room Policy was deleted for this meeting by consensus of the Board.

Jay House use: Staff members continue to look at ways that the Jay House can be utilized after Marion Design Company leaves.

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

Materials and Services: Statistics were presented at the meeting.

Staff: Ami Brainerd from the Children's Department has resigned effective March 29. Both the Library and the History Center have had staff shortages due to the various illnesses that are going around. Fortunately, other staff members were willing to fill in when needed. Kristen Gioe is currently the Head of Technical Services and the Teen Librarian. In addition, she works in the Children's Department when needed. She has found that the Technical Services job is time-consuming.

A full-time Teen librarian position is being offered. Mrs. Gioe will continue to assist this new Teen librarian and she will also help in the Children's Department but her primary focus will be on Technical Services.

Travel & Meeting: The following items are approved by board consent unless there are objections: 1) March 7, Wells County, NICCL meeting, Paul Burritt, mileage; and 2) April 1, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Genealogical Society workshop, Rhonda Stoffer, registration, mileage; April 12, Ivy Tech Marion, Prevent Child Abuse Grant County, workshop & luncheon, Kristen Gioe, Tylanna Jones, Mary Eckerle, registration (luncheon).

Properties: Roger Marx has completed many projects thus far this year and has a long list of 2023 things to do. Most recently, he designed and finished a wall in the Teen area.

Neighborhood: Mary Eckerle reported that Code Enforcement investigated the house and yard on the corner of 7th & Boots across from the Jay House and will order a clean-up.

First Amendment Audit: MPL had its first First Amendment Audit on March 20. A man walked around the Library taking videos. Staff did not confront him.

Children's/Youth Services: 1) Grab and Go project for March: Shamrock Necklace; 2) Saturday programming continues to be very popular; 3) There is a program scheduled for each day of Spring break, March 27-31; and 4) Tylanna Jones is booking summer reading shows. The summer reading theme is *All Together Now*. Summer reading sign-up will begin on Thursday, June 1 and go through Saturday, July 15. Reading grand prizes will be drawn on Tuesday, July 25.

Reference Services/Adult Programming: 1) Since February was Black History Month, there were some displays spotlighting a variety of famous Black Americans, including local people plus a display on the Harlem Renaissance. Other displays included one on Indiana authors and the Glick Foundation Awards. A Dungeons & Dragons exhibit was on the main floor. Patrons enjoy the rotating season puzzles and the coloring pages; 2) Sheri Sharlow keeps the web page and social media posts going and there seems to be a lot of "likes" and comments; 3) Sean Harnett has been a welcome addition to the Reference department and he also is doing displays and helps with the seed library; 4) The monthly book discussion group moves along smoothly with interesting discussions and lots of camaraderie; and 5) The Seed Library is ready for spring and already has had some business.

Indiana History and Genealogy: 1) Rhonda Stoffer is working with Bill Munn to have him present a virtual program on Grant County in the Civil War. This will take place in April; 2) Mrs. Stoffer will attend the Indiana Genealogical Society conference in Fort Wayne on April 1; 3) Bill Munn did a spot on WBAT about the History Center: <https://post.futurimedia.com/wbatam/playlist/12/listen-9970.html?cb=1678706069.518533&fbclid=IwAR0bS4CXnkqSc9QycLMwRvt23J3T7RUNjtechNV1kdDe3OGXSvMZ7bkli2M>

and 4) Update on the county records digitization project: On Friday, March 1, the last packet was completed! The project began in September 2021, so it has been a long project! Indiana History & Genealogy staff completed 417 packets in February and 262 in March for a total of 5,884 probate files completed. Dates were from the 1870's through 1935. Grant County Clerk Pam Harris has agreed to allow the Indiana Room to obtain copies of the scanned records for our use. FamilySearch has already uploaded digital scans from the marriage books that are being scanned now in the courthouse. Kim Walker, the contractor from Granite Mountain, will be moving to the records room to scan the probate packets and other records located there. Indiana Room staff dedicated many hours to this project and they had several volunteers who assisted: Debbie Ackley, Doris Sutton, Angie Holt, and Sharon Gunyon. A big thanks to the Library Board for allowing the Indiana Room people to do this important project to preserve endangered county history.

Circulation: 1) The nonfiction audiobook section has been weeded; and 2) Garfield still has a lot of visitors.

Museum: 1) The museum intern, Cameron Reagan, a student from Taylor University, created an Indy Car exhibit; 2) Collen Cramer and Kelsey Winters are prepping grants and planning future programs and projects;

3) The photo inventory is complete and museum staff are beginning the object inventory; 4) There was a black history display in the Library Connector during February; and 5) Tashima Davis is onboard for a painting event in May!

Technical Services: 1) Kristen Gioe renewed the Library's subscription to Wowbrary. It is a newsletter that shows all of the new items coming into the Library each week. It is now connected with the Library's Facebook and Instagram accounts, so it will post a picture and a link to the current week's newsletter on Wednesday mornings. Hopefully, this will bring more attention to the newsletter. Here is a link to sign up: <https://wowbrary.org/signup.aspx?l=1324>; and 2) Kristie Fuller keeps the Large Print collection updated with fresh new books. She also adds to the large print bulletin board.

Teen Department: a) There is a new wall in the Teen Lounge! This will give some distinction to the area and provide more space for study and lounge in there. Thanks to Roger Marx for building this.

Network Manager: 1) Staff and patrons' computers will be moving to Windows 11 soon. Mr. Burritt will train staff on it. There will also be patron training; and 2) MPL is hosting a NICCL workshop on March 28. It will be an all-day event.

Adult programming: During February and March, several adult programs were offered in hopes of bringing more people into the library. 1) MPL partnered with Grant County's Purdue Extension Office in a Spice & Herb program attended by 11 people. MPL looks forward to working with the Extension Office in the future; 2) MPL partnered with the DAR, General Francis Marion chapter, to bring John Meeks from Kokomo to the library on March 6 for a presentation on dogs used in war. 19 attended this informative program; 3) The History Center zoomed with Diane Hunter of the Miami Nation on March 11. Hunter described history, language, customs, food, and other interesting information about this Native American tribe. This was part of the Carnegie Lecture series.

Marketing: Ruthann Sumpter and Mary Eckerle were guests on WBAT on March 2. Ms. Sumpter highlighted the March 6 War Dog program and other March activities were promoted.

AARP: Tax help began in February. It is running smoothly, and the AARP volunteers are always friendly and helpful.

Friends: The Friends had a meeting on March 7. The Spring Book Sale is scheduled for April 21 and April 22.

SOS: Collen Cramer reports: 1) SOS has reached out in hopes of finding new board members. The Group recently had a meeting discussing restructuring and adding diversity; 2) SOS is still looking for a Firestone buyer; 3) The group is coordinating with Indiana Landmarks for an affiliate program; 4) The group is creating signage for the Firestone building and will include the History Center in the signage; and 5) The group will have a future meeting to revise SOS Bylaws and create a transitory board.

Grant County Historical Society: Renee Bissell Cole: 1) Wednesday, March 15's meeting and WWII presentation by Karen Creech was well attended. She has quite an interesting and unique collection; 2) Planning for the GCHS Annual Dinner (April 19) is well in hand and ongoing. Registrations, which are due by March 31, are also open to non-members interested in history and the works of Ray Boomhower; 3) The presentation for May 17 is from the Monday Conversation Club by Sue Bratton and Sarah Evans; 4) The June and July meetings will feature members showcasing (Show and Tell) items of old, or which have been passed down in the family; and 5) Project: We have discussed the planning required to update the Marion Pictorial book to present date. Preplanning will take a great deal of time and effort before we can begin the task of amassing the army of volunteers to execute such an endeavor. We are not sure if it can be accomplished by our Bicentennial, which is/was the hope.

Community Outreach: 1) Collen Cramer spoke to the Retired Teachers organization in February; 2) Mary Eckerle facilitated a Directors' Roundtable in early March. Two local library directors are retiring this year; and 2) A business center is under development at Ridley tower. Mary Eckerle gave more information about the History Center's involvement in this project; and 3) WorkOne is considering bringing community job

fairs back to the Library and is working with the Grant County Economic Growth Council and the Greater Grant County Chamber of Commerce to see what would work best.

Adjournment/Next meeting: Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

_____ President _____ Secretary

_____ Member _____ Member