

August 19, 2025

The Marion Public Library Board of Trustees met Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. on the second floor in the Library Program Room of the Marion Public Library. Present were Mrs. Pogue, Ms. Sumpter, Mrs. Wilk, Mrs. Mathias, Mrs. Nicholson and Mr. Gilmore. Jonie Riddle, Business Manager and Jaime Pitt, Director were also in attendance.

Library Board President Melissa Pogue called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The minutes from the July 15, 2025, meeting was approved following a motion by Ms. Sumpter, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson. The motion carried unanimously, with Mrs. Mathias and Mrs. Wilk abstaining.

On the motion of Mrs. Nicholson, seconded by Ms. Sumpter, the Treasurer's report and payment of the docket 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 \$3,945,344.03 in the Library Operating Fund as of July 31, 2025.

Business:

1. **Finances** – Director Jaime Pitt proposed transferring \$200,000 from the Operating Fund to the Rainy Day Fund to prepare for upcoming capital expenses. Action on this proposal was tabled until the September meeting due to resolution paperwork not being ready.
2. **Budget** - Jonie Riddle and Jaime Pitt met with Alisyn Mata from the Department of Local Government Finance on July 23. Included in your board materials is a copy of the Notice to Taxpayers which will be placed on Gateway after the Board meeting. The goal of the meeting was to look at needs for 2026 and determine how to best place amounts in the accounts. 4% is the Growth Quotient for this next year and it was important to keep the advertised budget under 4% so that the Budget did/ does not have to be reviewed by the fiscal body which is the Marion Common Council. More information at the meeting.
3. **Indiana State Library – Join Public Library Internet Access Consortium:** Jaime Pitt, Director, presented a resolution for the Marion Public Library to join the Indiana State Library Consortium for Public Library Internet Access. This would cover the funding year from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. Mrs. Nicholson made a motion for the library to join the consortium, which was seconded by Mrs. Mathias. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Synlawn:** A discussion was held regarding the final phase of the courtyard project. To complete the space and ensure a consistent look, a proposal was made to install turf in one remaining section. A quote from **Synlawn** was presented for consideration. A motion to approve the **Synlawn** quote and allocate the necessary funds was made by **Mrs. Wilk**, seconded by **Ms. Sumpter**, and passed

unanimously.

5. **Security Cameras:** The board discussed a proposal for new security cameras and related technology for the library and history center. Jaime presented details on the system presented having cloud capabilities, interior and exterior camera placement, and a five-year maintenance and licensing agreement. It was also discussed that having the vendor provide labor versus MPL staff was preferable even if it cost more.

A motion to accept the Intrasect quote was made by Mrs. Nicholson and seconded by Mrs. Wilk. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Library Card Access for Lakeview Christian School:** Director Jaime Pitt proposed providing Lakeview Christian School students and teachers with MPL library cards at no cost, as the school is located in an unserved area just outside the city district boundaries. She will follow up with the school to explore options for student library cards, pending information on enrollment numbers and potential financial impact. Jaime will also contact the State to inquire about the feasibility of a student card rate and consult with the Friends Group regarding possible scholarship support for students requiring financial assistance.

I. **Director's Report**

1. **Materials and Services:** Monthly Statistics will be presented at the meeting.
2. **Staff:** Jonie will be gone the month of September.
3. **Conferences/Travel** –None
4. **Community Engagement:** Radio segment WBAT; MPL Happenings in the Chronicle Tribune; Neighborhood Block Party; Boys & Girls Club; St. Martin's; Radiant Health—Community Planning.
5. **Grants:** An architectural firm recently completed a building audit of the Carnegie Building to support our efforts in pursuing grants.
6. **Children's/Youth (Tylanna)**
At the Library:
In July, we offered two popular grab-and-go craft kits: a colorful dragonfly craft and a fun beach camper craft.

Programs:

We hosted 18 programs during the month, serving more than 557 patrons. Partnerships with Wonderspace and Love on a Leash added exciting variety to our offerings. Storytimes have now resumed, and we are finalizing our September–November programming calendar.

Summer Reading:

Our Summer Reading Program was a great success! Participation included 200 readers in the Pre-K group and 406 readers in grades K–6.

7. Circulation (Michelle)**Garfield Visitors**

In July, Garfield attracted visitors from Colorado, New York, West Virginia, Florida, Kentucky, and Alabama.

Community Donations

Linda Wilk (Hands of Hope) generously donated 250 pairs of Bombas socks for our Care Kits. Supplies are currently running low, and we are out of several items.

Partnerships

Wesleyan Health & Rehab has signed up for an organization library card and will pick up 25 large-print books each month for their residents. This marks our third partnership with an assisted living facility. Natalie leads the selection of titles for all participating facilities.

Care Kits Distributed

- **81 kits** in July

New Library Cards Issued

- **Adults:** 68
- **Children:** 8

Outreach Highlights – July

- Weekly visits to St. Martin Center to connect with families, sign up Summer Reading participants, issue library cards, and host crafts; served **21 children and families**.
- Partnered with volunteer Mrs. Spitzer to distribute books from our library book sale.
- Awarded Summer Reading Grand Prize to a 5-year-old who visited daily and completed the “Library Activities To Do” program; family featured on Facebook.
- Provided a “Library on Wheels” program at the Boys & Girls Club, serving **29 children** with reading, crafts, learning centers, snacks, and stuffed “reading buddies.”
- Boys & Girls Club closed the following day; thank-you notes sent to leadership.

Upcoming Outreach – August

- Neighborhood Block Party
- National Night Out

8. Indiana History (Rhonda)

- **Pettiford Family Reunion** – Scheduled for August 15–17; history tour will conclude at the History Center on Saturday.
- **Family History Conference** – Flyers distributed at all desks and posted to library listservs; 13 registrations so far. Additional outreach to area libraries and societies planned this week.
- **BookEye Scanner Projects** – Volunteer Ron Eddy scanned nearly **5,000 images** for the sheriff's department; materials returned, and copies retained in-house. Ron is now scanning additional books and blueprints for upload to Indiana Digital Memory (IDM). In July, IDM received **803 page views**.
- **Chronicle-Tribune Photo Collection** – Volunteer Linda Sewell has indexed over **460 envelopes** of topic files; Indiana Room staff are organizing 1950–1970s negatives as time permits.
- **Ongoing CT Scanning** – Krystal has scanned **1,200+ photos**; decisions pending on digital storage and public access methods.

9. Museum & Special Projects (Kelsey)

Museum & History Center

- New third-floor displays feature vintage photographs and a whimsical collection of object-shaped pencil sharpeners.
- Hosted quilt gallery sessions during *Celebration 2025* for The Quilters Hall of Fame, drawing an estimated **200 visitors**.
- Provided a Gas Boom exhibit tour for a Minnetrista representative seeking exhibit ideas.
- Presented to the Andrew Manor Neighborhood Association, including an Object Show & Tell of museum artifacts.
- Collection committee approved **19 new donations**, including local fossils (1951), wartime letters and memorabilia, 1930s–50s quilts and toys, 1800s photographs, Lyle Reith artwork, Spencer Hotel silverware, 1970s gospel records, and a 1931 band championship program signed by MHS students.

Jay House

- Hosted **6 external meetings** and **1 library program** in July, with total attendance of **84**.

PPS Grant / Courtyard Project

- Planning continues for the *Courtyard Kickoff* event; snacks will include Ashley's ice cream, lemonade, and popcorn.
- Quote received for installing artificial turf in the remaining courtyard section—board review planned for August.
- Artist Tashema Davis completed colorful circle murals in the courtyard in early August.

10. Networking (Paul)

The first part of August has been both busy and hot, with a variety of projects and issues addressed:

- Completed warranty work on Public Computer #10; safety software installation, printer setup, and final testing are still needed before returning it to service.
- Scheduled automated closing announcements for the next several months.
- Coordinated elevator repairs with American Elevator and Elevated Elevator in Roger's absence, along with other maintenance needs.
- Continued work on the security camera system upgrade.
- Provided computer assistance for both patrons and staff.
- Managed other tasks as needed.

11.Reference (Barb Enslen)

Summer Reading Program

July marked the successful conclusion of our Summer Reading Program. This year's program was highly effective, drawing in new patrons while also encouraging existing ones to increase their reading.

Programming and Events

- We hosted 10 programs in July with a total attendance of 78 people.
- In collaboration with the Children's Department, we held two special all-ages programs that were attended by 75 people.
- Local author Mark Saluke visited for a book signing, attracting approximately 40 attendees.
- Our ongoing puzzle table and coloring pages remain popular amenities for patrons.
- We've launched new beginning sewing classes, taught by Joanne, using the machines funded by a grant secured by Deb Guyer and the Quilter's Hall of Fame. These classes have been so popular that they fill up quickly, and we've added a third session each month to meet the demand. There is potential to expand this program further if we can find additional instructors.

Grants and Partnerships

- Deb Guyer plans to purchase one more sewing machine for us, as there is still remaining grant money available.
- After careful consideration, Marion Health has decided to discontinue the Wellness Wednesday program due to low attendance, despite our joint advertising efforts.

Displays and Staff Contributions

We featured several engaging displays throughout the month, including themes such as Independence Day, Graphic Novels, giraffes, canning, and ice cream. I'd like to extend my gratitude to the staff members who consistently help select and set up these creative displays each month.

12. Technical Services (Kristen)

Vendor Relations and Collections

This month, we successfully completed the setup to begin ordering materials from **Ingram**. While we will continue to use Baker & Taylor for items they have in stock, Ingram's larger inventory, especially for recently published titles, will significantly expand our options.

Professional Development and System Updates

I recently attended a review class for **Horizon Administration**, which was very informative. A key takeaway was learning about **BlueCloud Circulation and Cataloging**. This web-based platform has a more modern interface and could potentially reduce our need for Citrix licenses. I learned that SirsiDynix is aiming for BlueCloud to manage 90% of Horizon's functions by the end of 2026, which seems to be their future direction.

Youth Programs

The **Battle of the Books** process is well underway. The book ballots have been sent to coaches, and selections are expected to be finalized by the end of this week. To assist the coaches, I included a link to Teaching Books in the ballot. This resource, available through our Inspire databases, provides professional reviews, author interviews, and other valuable information for each title under consideration.

13. Teens (Katie)

Teen Programs/Summer Reading

- We hosted a total of 10 teen events with an overall attendance of **83**.
- Our **Dungeons & Dragons** program continues to grow in popularity, with more teens joining the group.
- Attendance for the Anime Club has declined, and we are planning to increase our outreach efforts to promote it within the community.
- A major success this month was our **Adult Summer Reading** program, which saw a tripling of participation compared to last year. We've received a lot of positive feedback from patrons who enjoyed the program.

Library Displays

Our displays this month included themes of "Red, White, and Blue," "Hungry for a New Book," and "Travel."

Adjournment/Next meeting: A motion to adjourn the meeting until Tuesday, September 2, 2025, for the Public Hearing on the Budget was made by Mrs. Nicholson and seconded by Ms. Sumpter. The motion passed unanimously.

<u>MRB, Jr.</u>	President	<u>Bethann Sumpter</u>	Secretary
<u>Rebecca Miller</u>	Member	<u>Benjamin M. Nicholson</u>	Member