

May 21, 2024

The Marion Public Library Board of Trustees met Tuesday, May 21, at 6 p.m. in the second floor Library Program Room of the Marion Public Library. Present were Ms. Ketcham, Mrs. Pogue, Mrs. Nicholson, Ms. Sumpter, Mr. Gilmore. Jonie Riddle & members of the Project for Public Spaces (PPS) site visit were also present. There were no viewers on zoom.

Library Board President Cindy Ketcham called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

On motion of Mr. Gilmore, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson, the minutes of the April 16, 2024, were unanimously approved.

On motion of Mrs. Nicholson, seconded by Mrs. Pogue, 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 2,968,459.83 in the Library Operating Fund as of April 16, 2024.

Special Recognition:

Indiana State Representative Lori Goss-Reaves presented the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash award on behalf of the Governor of Indiana to our esteemed former Director, Mary Eckerle. This distinguished accolade is one of the highest civilian honors in the state, recognizing individuals who have rendered exceptional service to the state or the governor. Mary Eckerle's dedication and leadership significantly enriched our library and community. Her commitment to fostering a love of reading, expanding access to educational resources, and creating a welcoming environment for all patrons has left an indelible mark on our community.

Business:

Finances: The State Board of Accounts audit (engagement) continues through May. Jonie Riddle will report on this.

Center for Public Spaces/General Motors Grant: The team from the Center for Public Spaces gave a 20-minute presentation to the board concerning the project for the library's outdoor space. They also intend to have some focus groups, community meetings, and other gatherings so that the public can have input in what they want the public space to look like throughout the week.

Long-Range Planning: Jaime updated the board on the letter from the state library regarding MPL's 2023 long-range plan. The 2024 plan needs to be completed by August 30th to remain in compliance.

Unmasked Exhibit: The board recently received a request to host an art installation in the museum portion of the library. Given the sensitive nature of the content, there was a thorough discussion regarding the potential implications of hosting versus merely housing the exhibit within our facilities. During the board meeting, members deliberated on the implications and considerations associated with hosting the art installation. The sensitive nature of the content prompted questions about its alignment with the mission and values of the library and museum. To ensure an informed decision, the board unanimously decided to request a formal proposal from the organization responsible for the art installation. This

proposal will provide detailed information about the exhibit's content, themes, objectives, and potential impact on library patrons and museum visitors.

Action Taken:

The board has tasked the library director with formally requesting a proposal from the organization behind the art installation. Upon receipt, the proposal will be carefully reviewed and assessed to determine the most suitable course of action.

I. Director's Report

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

Children's/Youth Department:

In April, our Children's and Youth Department saw vibrant activity. We engaged young minds with our April Showers flower craft, enhancing creativity and joy. Additionally, we conducted 19 diverse programs, fostering learning and interaction within our community. Outreach efforts included visits to Kindergarten Round at Marion High School, Allen Family Night, and Healthy Kids Day events, strengthening our ties with local families. We're excited to launch our Summer Reading program themed "Adventure Begins at Your Library," offering six weeks of reading adventures from June 1 to July 20. Our new bilingual AWE Learning computers and the Trail Tale program at Salamonie Lake further enrich our offerings, providing diverse learning experiences for children and families.

Circulation

In the Circulation Department, we have been diligently preparing for upcoming staff shortages while ensuring seamless service for our patrons. Additionally, we identified and swiftly resolved a glitch in our Libby downloadable service, rectifying an issue that allowed patrons to use expired cards. This month, we issued a commendable total of forty-eight new adult cards and twenty-two new juvenile cards, expanding our library community. Notably, during the eclipse, we welcomed visitors from diverse locations such as Santa Monica, Charlotte, Portage, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, and Eau Claire, highlighting the widespread appeal of our library's offerings.

Indiana History Department:

Progress in our Indiana History Department was evident, with significant updates on digitization projects and collaborations with community members. We continued uploading records to FamilySearch.org and initiated the digitization of newspaper microfilms. Additionally, preparations for the screening of "Rooted in Love, Lifted in Strength" demonstrate our commitment to preserving and sharing local heritage. Despite upcoming personal leave, our team remains dedicated to advancing historical preservation efforts.

Museum:

In museum operations, we've maintained our inventory efforts while taking significant steps to enhance our organizational structure. This includes creating an application and job description for a Collections Manager role. We've also received new objects, notably a Beaver Mandible from the Field Museum. Our Jay House rentals program continues to contribute to our sustainability. Furthermore, we've diligently organized Indigenous objects for NAGPRA compliance. Throughout the month, we successfully executed the Eclipse Lecture and Eclipse events,

engaging approximately 40 attendees. Behind-the-scenes tours offered unique insights into our museum's operations. Collaboration with Marion Design Co. has furthered our projects, while the conclusion of AARP marked a milestone. Kelsey's support during the Book Sale and library events has been invaluable. Looking ahead, we've finalized plans for a Summer Internship with Heather and continued event planning, including Olympics-related activities. Kelsey's efforts extend to creating a project for Public Spaces Focus Groups, enriching our community engagement.

Networking:

We're thrilled to announce that the installation of the four new AWE computers for children is complete, and they're already proving to be a hit with the kids. Additionally, Paul has been proactive in enhancing our safety measures by updating staff safety manuals and scheduling training sessions on building safety. His participation in a NICCL training workshop via Zoom further underscores our commitment to staff development and safety protocols. Looking ahead, Paul will be installing deepfreeze on the four public computers in the children's section, ensuring their optimal performance and security. Moreover, his ongoing support with computer assistance for both patrons and staff are greatly appreciated as we strive to provide excellent service to our community.

Properties Department:

The Properties Department diligently undertook maintenance tasks to ensure the smooth functioning of our facilities. From repairing equipment to setting up and tearing down events, our team's dedication to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for staff and visitors was evident. Special projects, such as assisting the Swayzee library group with shelving disassembly, underscored our commitment to collaboration and community support. Roger also proposed a plan for creating a distinct area for our Maker Space in the program room.

Reference:

April was a vibrant month at the library, with the Grant County Art Association hosting their annual Spring Art Show, showcasing a diverse array of artworks and awarding prizes to talented artists. The excitement continued with the total annular eclipse on May 8th, celebrated with engaging activities in our parking lot. As part of Library Appreciation Week, we treated patrons to an extra family movie day featuring "The Robot and Frank," drawing in 13 eager attendees. Our annual book sale kicked off on April 12th, coinciding with National Library Week, offering a treasure trove of literary delights. Meanwhile, Sheri spearheaded the monthly book discussion group, fostering lively conversations among 11 participants. She also adeptly manages our social media and program advertising efforts, while Angie and Sean provide invaluable assistance to patrons with ILL requests. Our crafting community flourished with a spring-themed painting session, attracting 12 enthusiasts, while passive programs like puzzle tables and adult coloring pages provided relaxation and enjoyment for all. The library's diverse displays throughout the month, including Poetry, Gardening, and themes related to the eclipse and Autism, enriched the visitor experience, reflecting our commitment to offering enriching cultural experiences for our community.

Technical Services:

This month, Kristen attended the thought-provoking webinar "Don't I have the right not to be

offended" by Niche Academy, focusing on censorship and book challenges. In other updates, we're preparing to transition our cataloging services from Skyriver to OCLC. Additionally, she has successfully set up the Summer Reading Program on ReaderZone, with public code 2fc4a and staff code 3e5ee. During Tylanna's vacation, Kristen assisted in the Children's department, covering the desk and facilitating story times. A highlight of this month has been making series information on Enterprise linkable for our patrons, allowing them to easily access other volumes in a series with a simple click.

Teens:

As May approaches, our Dungeons & Dragons sessions will pause briefly, paving the way for an exciting four-session summer campaign. It's been encouraging to witness heightened participation from teenage visitors, with regular attendees and newcomers expressing interest in our Teen Takeovers and upcoming activities. We're dedicated to broadening our outreach to serve more teenagers effectively. While May signals a calm before the bustling Summer Reading period, we're gearing up with two Teen Takeovers and supervised Teen Lounge hours. Our Summer preparations are well underway, with handouts and promotions set to launch by May 1st. Additionally, we've contributed a tote bag filled with teen-centric resources to Marion's After Prom, fostering community collaboration. We're still seeking a volunteer Dungeon Master for our D&D Club starting in August, welcoming any recommendations. Our displays, featuring Black Out Poetry and Strong Female Characters, continue to engage visitors, offering diverse experiences.

Overall, April was marked by collaborative efforts, community engagement, and progress across departments, reflecting our ongoing commitment to serving and enriching our community through library services and initiatives.

Travel & Meetings: Jaime will attend a budget workshop in Indianapolis on May 23, 2024, while Kelsey and Madisyn will participate in the PPS (Public Spaces) Conference from June 4 to June 7, 2024.

Adjournment/Next meeting: Tuesday, June 18, 2024.

Cynthia Kama President _____ Secretary
Bice Member _____ Jeremy Lee Member