

April 21, 2026

The Marion Public Library Board of Trustees met Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the second floor Library Program Room of the Marion Public Library. Present were Mrs. Pogue, Mrs. Nicholson, Mr. Gilmore, Ms. Sumpter, Mrs. Wilk, and Mrs. Mathias. 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 March 17, 2026, meeting were approved following a motion by Ms. Sumpter, seconded by Mrs. Mathias. Mrs. Wilk abstained. The motion carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mrs. Nicholson, seconded by Mrs. Wilk, 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 \$3,776,579.42 in the Library Operating Fund as of March 31, 2026.

Business

Annual Library Report: Director Pitt submitted MPL's annual report to the State Library. Board President Melissa Pogue reviewed and signed off on the report. The report was submitted on March 27, 2026 (Due 5/4/2026).

Lark's Song: Lark's Song will rent the Jay House on an as-needed basis, with daily rental fees applied to an invoice sent monthly.

Bad Debt Policy: The Board approved a bad debt policy to forgive outstanding fines and clear records older than three years, retaining only records from the current three-year period in order to maintain accurate accounting records. A motion was made by Mr. Gilmore and seconded by Mrs. Nicholson. The motion passed unanimously.

Elevator Repair (Museum): The Board approved a quote from the library's current elevator maintenance company, Elevated, for a complete drain and replacement of the hydraulic fluid in the Museum elevator, which had not been changed in more than 20 years. A motion was made by Mrs. Mathias and seconded by Ms. Sumpter. The motion passed unanimously.

Masonry Work (Museum): The Board approved the quote from Atlas for masonry repairs on the north and west sides of the building, including gutter restoration, to be funded through ARPA funds. The Atlas quote was lower than the quote submitted by Central Building Restoration. An additional company was contacted but declined to submit a bid for the

project. A motion was made by Mrs. Wilk and seconded by Mr. Gilmore. The motion passed unanimously.

Windows Replacement (Connector): The Board approved Cunningham's quote for the replacement of 12 window panels and associated window molding in the Library Connector, to be funded through ARPA funds. A motion was made by Mrs. Wilk and seconded by Mrs. Nicholson. The motion passed unanimously.

Landscaping: Director Pitt presented design renderings for the Washington Street entrance project, along with an estimated cost of slightly more than \$17,000. Board members expressed concerns regarding certain design elements. Tim Voss provided the initial design, which emphasized low maintenance and continuity with the courtyard area. The Board requested that additional quotes and design proposals be obtained from local contractors, including Alan Beck and one additional contractor to be determined, with a project budget parameter of \$20,000. The matter was tabled pending receipt of additional quotes and revised designs.

Meeting Room B: Deferred decision on AV system quotes (Mitchell Design vs. No Limits) pending additional consultation on specific requirements and making sure we get what we need for the space.

Director's Report:

1. **Materials and Services:** Monthly Statistics were presented at the meeting.
2. **Staff:** Celebrated Several Milestone Work Anniversaries; Advanced Strengths Training Scheduled for April 29.
3. **Conferences/Travel** – Renee, Krystal, and Aurora attended the IGS Conference in Indianapolis on April 17, 18.
4. **Community Engagement:** MPL Happenings in the Chronicle Tribune; Honor Flight Mailbox Partnership.
5. **Special Library Programs:**
 - National Library Week (April 19-25)
 - Earth Day Outreach (April 22)
 - Storm Chasers/1965 Palm Sunday Tornadoes Author/Weather Exhibit
 - Mayor Morrell Book Signing & Reading (April 23)
6. **Children's/Youth (Tylanna)**

At the Library:
The grab and go craft for March was a *Goldfish* craft.

Programs:

During the month of March, we planned 28 programs, and we served over 679 patrons.

Other:

We visited Kings Academy to be their special guest readers. I read to the Kindergarten through 2nd graders and Ami read to the 3rd through 5th graders. We promoted our monthly programs and Summer Reading.

We had **145 readers** participate in our reading challenge for *Read Across America*.

Upcoming:

During National Library Week, April 19 - 25, we will have a collaborative art project, photo booth, scavenger hunt, and special coloring pages. The theme for the week is "*Find Your Joy.*"

Family Storytime with Ceola Friday is on Friday, April 17 at 10:30 a.m. in Meeting Room B.

Mayor Morrell Book Reading and Signing is on Thursday, April 23 at 5 p.m. in the Children's Activity Room.

7. Circulation (Michelle)

Garfield Visitors – Visitor's came from Daytona Beach, FL, Wylie, TX, Kewaskum, WI, and various Indiana towns.

Chair Yoga continues to have 25 to 30 attending each week.

Joanne is working on a 250 America Celebration Quilt. Patrons and staff are encouraged to attend a session to sew a block for this quilt. There are three different blocks to choose from. (various skill levels)

Natalie and Michelle have finished the DVD reorganization project.

New Library Cards:**Adults: 55****Children: 10****Care Kits: 54**

Community Outreach (Recca): In early April, outreach efforts included a visit to I Have a Dream Preschool Academy during their Easter celebration. Library services and children's programming were shared with attendees, along with distribution of informational bags, snacks, and a take-home craft. Two themed stories were read,

and the visit engaged 33 children and 7 adults. Information about adult programming was also shared with caregivers.

Additional outreach planned for April includes participation in Kindergarten Round-Up at Marion High School,

8. Indiana History (Rhonda)

The social media committee continues to be highly active on Facebook and Instagram. Please let one of us know if you have anything to promote.

NewspaperArchives database is back up after their cyber-attack. I have provided the needed information to regain access, and the main search database is working. Some features have not been brought back online as of yet.

Krystal has scanned 7,342 CT photos as of 4/13/26. I transferred two of the CDs of photos to the server for back up with a total of 3,865 photo files. This makes a total of 11,207 photographs on the server. Kyrstal has finished scanning the fifth box of topic files and is over halfway through the first box of people files. I am working on the file naming process on box 5.

Renee, Krystal, and Aurora will be attending the Indiana Genealogical Society's annual conference April 17th and 18th in Plainfield. I will be watching sessions via Zoom while staffing the Indiana Room.

9. Museum & Special Projects (Kelsey)

In March, several updates and initiatives took place at the History Center and Museum. Kelsey and Gabe collaborated on the installation of a new RCA display in the lobby, which has received very positive feedback from visitors. A motorcycle was also added to the *Home of the Hog* exhibit, enhancing the overall experience. Work is currently underway to plan an updated Natural History exhibit. In preparation for April programming, Kelsey coordinated and promoted several events, including the *Indiana Disasters* traveling exhibit (April 2–30), an *Atmospheric Indiana* presentation with Indiana Storm Chasers (April 18), an Author Talk with Janis Thornton (April 23), and a History Hike scheduled for May 9.

Programming was intentionally paused in March to allow for a greater focus on outreach and preparation for upcoming events. During this time, Kelsey presented to the Grant County Retired Teachers group and the Rotary Club, with both presentations being very well received. The History Center also hosted a tour for local professionals from Lead, Inc., and welcomed students from an Indiana Wesleyan University drawing class, who used the museum's collection to practice observational drawing.

Collections management efforts included the deaccessioning of 79 items and the acceptance of two new donations: 1907 Fairmount Township School Rosters and a collection of Canton glassware along with 1870s–1880s teachers' contracts and reports. Additionally, 10 items were approved for accession into the collection.

At the Jay House, one meeting was hosted in March with six attendees. The facility was subsequently closed for the remainder of the month due to a water leak but has since been repaired and is back in operation. Appreciation is extended to Roger for his work in coordinating the repairs and restoring the space.

10. Networking/Security (Paul)

All new phones have been successfully installed, with minor adjustments still in progress to optimize performance. The network has experienced a few minor issues, which are being addressed as they arise. Office 365 continues to present some intermittent challenges, and troubleshooting efforts are ongoing.

The DUO multi-factor authentication system has been implemented successfully and is functioning well. Plans are underway to enhance building security with the addition of four new security cameras.

Ongoing support continues to be provided to both patrons and staff for general computer and technology needs.

11. Reference (Barb Enslin)

Adult programming continued to see strong engagement in March, with sewing classes proving especially popular. More than 45 participants attended, prompting Joanne to add a fourth session to meet demand. Additional adult programs included Book Club, Basket Weaving, Craft Time, Fiber Crafts, and a collaborative craft session with a group from Carey Services. Participants also had the opportunity to create cards for Honor Flight veterans.

Roger coordinated the setup of display standards for the annual Art Association Show, which opened at the end of the month and will remain on exhibit through April. The show highlights the work of local artists across a variety of categories, including drawing, photography, painting, and mixed media.

Monthly displays featured a range of engaging and timely themes, including St. Patrick's Day, National Crochet Month, Peanuts, National Craft Month, Seed Starting, Women's History Month, and Easter.

