

May 19, 2026

The Marion Public Library Board of Trustees met Tuesday, May 19, 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, and Mrs. Wilk. 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 amended minutes from the April 21, 2026, meeting were approved following a motion by Mrs. Nicholson, seconded by Ms. Sumpter. The motion carried unanimously.

On the motion of Ms. Sumpter, seconded by Mr. Gilmore, 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 \$3,609,473.97 in the Library Operating Fund as of April 30, 2026.

Business

Non-Resident Fee: Director, Jaime Pitt, informed the Board that the non-resident library card fee would need to increase to \$76 per year (\$19 per quarter) to comply with state-mandated requirements. Mrs. Wilk moved to approve the fee increase, and Mr. Gilmore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Grant County Historical Society Liaison: The Board considered the appointment of Renee Bissell-Cole as the Marion Public Library representative to the Grant County Historical Society Board. Ms. Sumpter made a motion to approve the appointment, and Mrs. Wilk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Washington Street Entrance Improvements: Director Jaime Pitt informed the Board that she obtained three proposals for improvements to the Washington Street Entrance. The project budget was set at \$20,000, and all three proposals submitted were within the approved budget. The decision was deferred to next month in order to review all three designs and gain staff/community input.

Meeting Room B AV Upgrade: Director Jaime Pitt reported that Mr. Gilmore assisted the library in evaluating equipment needs and reviewing vendor proposals for the Meeting Room B audiovisual upgrade project. The Board considered a proposal from No Limits AV and approved the project for an amount not to exceed \$30,000, to be funded through City ARPA funds. Mr. Gilmore made the motion to approve the project, and Mrs. Nicholson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Acquisitions Policy (Museum): Director Pitt submitted an Acquisitions Policy drafted by Gabe Franks, Collections Manager, for Board review. The policy was presented for consideration, with a vote expected at the next meeting.

History Center Closing: The History Center requested closure on May 23 to allow staff attendance at a long-time employee's sister's funeral. Mrs. Wilk made a motion to approve the closure, and Mrs. Nicholson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report:

1. **Materials and Services:** Monthly Statistics were presented at the meeting.
2. **Staff:** Department Heads and full-time staff participated in advance Clifton Strengths training. Part-time Children's staff left; we have selected a replacement.
3. **Conferences/Travel:** Renee, Krystal, and Aurora attended IGS Conference (April 17, 18). Kristen attended OCLC Day in Carmel (April 9); Jaime attended Director's meeting (May 8); Paul & Gabe attended NICCL Workshop at Wells County (May 8)
4. **Community Engagement:** MPL Happenings in the Chronicle Tribune; Mental Health Matters; Earth Day; City Council Spotlight (Ruthann); United Way Early Literacy Task Force; Lark's Song (Wellbeing Literacy Kits); Kindergarten Round-up (Marion); I Have a Dream Preschool Academy; Hispanic Night - McCullouch Junior High School; Hosted IWU class; Hosted Taylor class.
5. **Special Library Programs:**
 - Book Sale (Friends of the Marion Public Library-May 15)
 - Community Quilt (America 250)
 - History Hike (May 9)

6. Children's/Youth (Tylanna)

At the Library:

The grab and go craft for April was a *Frog* craft.

Programs:

During the month of April, we planned 20 programs, and we served over 415 patrons.

Other:

In April, we attended Kindergarten round up at Marion High School and the Earth Day Event at Matter Park.

Our summer flyers have been delivered to all the schools. We passed out over 3,300 flyers.

Bayley's last day was Friday, May 1. We wish her the best in her future plans. She promises to come back and visit.

We have hired Kate Perryman to fill the role of Children's/Teens Program Assistant.

Upcoming:

We have many great programs coming up this summer. We are excited to offer a variety of engaging programs for our community.

7. Circulation (Michelle)

During the month of April, 47 Care Kits were distributed. The library issued 61 new adult library cards and 15 new children's cards. **Garfield visitors** traveled from a variety of locations including Oklahoma, Concord, CA, Coldwater, MI, and several towns throughout Indiana. Chair Yoga was moved to the Carnegie Room this month to accommodate growing attendance, and participants have responded very positively to the larger space. Due to continued interest, an additional Thursday morning class will be added in June. Joanne is also leading a "250 America Celebration Quilt" project, inviting both patrons and staff to sew blocks for a collaborative quilt. Participants may choose from three different block patterns, and sewing sessions are held Wednesdays from 12:00–2:00 PM in the Sewing Studio.

New Library Cards:

Adults: 61

Children: 15

Care Kits – 47

Community Outreach (Recca): In the month of April, I traveled to Matter Park to Earth Day. There were several event tables and plenty of food trucks. At the Library Table, families made book markers out of recycle cardboard paper as they learned about what the library had to offer. We had a total of 50 plus families before the rain came and I had to travel to my next event. Also, on that same day of Earth Day, I traveled to McCullough Junior High School, where they had Hispanic Night approximately 78 families were there. As families ate chili, I passed out library packets of information about the library and explained to them from kids, teenagers, and adults what the library had to offer including Summer Reading for the whole family.

8. Indiana History (Rhonda)

The Social Media Committee continues to maintain an active presence on Facebook and Instagram and encourages staff to share any upcoming programs or initiatives that may benefit from promotion. We are continuing to address an issue with remote authorization access for the NewspaperArchives database; Sheri is

currently working on implementing the necessary website code to resolve the problem. Digitization efforts continue to progress steadily, with Krystal having scanned 8,249 Chronicle-Tribune photos as of May 11, 2026. She is currently working on the final box of print photographs, while I am creating filenames for Box 6. Paul is also working to locate a replacement computer better suited for photo processing and Photoshop work. Beginning May 13, members of the General Francis Marion Chapter of the DAR will be available in the Indiana Room each Wednesday from 1–3 pm throughout the summer to assist patrons with Revolutionary War research. Additionally, I will be attending the National Genealogical Society’s annual conference in Fort Wayne from May 27–30.

9. Museum & Special Projects (Kelsey)

Museum staff continued work on several major projects and initiatives during April. Kelsey focused on planning for the upcoming History Hike, while Torri continued research for the Chronicle-Tribune project. Kelsey also met with the Atlas Foundry Foundation, which donated \$1,300—nearly completing the remaining grant match amount for the project. Gabe prepared a draft Acquisitions Policy that will be presented to the board in May. Staff also worked on and installed several new displays, including an Indy 500 exhibit, a children’s display featuring telephones, graduation-themed materials in Reference, and a photo and newspaper display focused on weather events.

Programming and outreach efforts remained active throughout the month. The Museum hosted two public programs in April, including a presentation by Indiana Storm Chasers and an Author Talk with Janis Thornton, with a combined attendance of 61. The Museum also hosted a traveling exhibit from the Indiana Historical Society. In addition, Kelsey presented to a public history class at Taylor University and provided a museum tour and artifact show-and-tell for a group from Indiana Wesleyan University’s Wesley Seminary.

Collections management work also continued, including the deaccessioning of several items such as apothecary materials, dolls, glassware, sports equipment, and a firework. Four donations were accepted into the collection, including Weaver Popcorn prints, a school bell and local quilts, a glassblowers’ union honorary membership card, and a Marion photo studio print from Howard County. No donations were approved for accession this month.

At the Jay House, 11 meetings were hosted during April with approximately 40 attendees.

10. Networking/Security (Paul)

I attended the NICCL Spring Workshop on May 8, which included sessions on customer service, finding grant funding opportunities, ADA compliance for Indiana library systems, and teambuilding. Additional staff training on ladder safety and handling difficult patrons is scheduled for May 19. Ongoing responsibilities included providing computer assistance to both patrons and staff, preparing for the installation of four new security cameras, and addressing other needs as they arose.

11. Properties (Roger)

The HVAC systems continue to operate properly, with adjustments being made as needed to accommodate fluctuating outdoor temperatures. Staff are encouraged to report any areas of the building that become uncomfortable so temperatures can be adjusted accordingly. Work has also been completed in the Program Room to provide designated electrical outlets for the sewing classes, allowing sewing machines and supplies to remain set up between sessions. In addition, light replacement work has resumed, with fixtures replaced in the Reference area and the Indiana History microfilm area. Additional lighting updates will continue throughout the building.

12. Reference (Barb Enslin)

Reference Department Head, Barb Enslin, was out for the last two and a half weeks due to emergency eye surgery. During her absence, the Reference Department continued operations and programming without interruption.

Programs and activities during the month of April included Honor Flight cardmaking, 4 Learn to Sew classes, an adult craft program, a Carey Services craft class, a Bob Ross painting class, and the monthly book club meeting. Reference staff also assisted with the special author visit featuring Janis Thornton.

13. Technical Services (Kristen)

Technical Services has been busy preparing for the May Book Sale, including organizing, sorting, and processing materials.

14. Teens (Katie)

Program Summary

Teen Services offered 11 programs during April with a total attendance of 45 participants, while Teen Lounge use totaled 80 visits for the month, bringing overall teen participation to 125. Programs included Open Hours, Dungeons & Dragons sessions,

Teen Book Club, Anime Club, Teen Art Group, and Window Between Worlds. Teen Book Club had the highest attendance with 13 participants, while Dungeons & Dragons continued to maintain steady participation throughout the month.

The Teen Art Group will conclude in May, and no new programs will be added until the start of Summer Reading in June. The Teen Lounge continues to see strong usage, and several books displayed in themed collections were checked out during the month.

Teen Lounge Usage: 80 visits

Total Participation (Programs + Lounge): 125

Displays

- *Manga: Try One of These Series*
- *Book Buds*
- *Don't Be a Fool—Read a Book” (nonfiction)*
- *April Showers Read for Hours*

15. **Adjournment/Next meeting:** The meeting adjourned upon a motion by Mrs. Nicholson, seconded by Ms. Sumpter. The motion carried unanimously. The next regular board meeting will be Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 5:30 pm.

MS Payne President _____ Secretary
[Signature] Member [Signature] Member
[Signature]