

March 16, 2021

The Marion Public Library Board of Trustees met Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 6 p.m. in Meeting Room B of the Marion Public Library. Present were Mrs. Nicholson, Mr. Breen, Mr. Cline, Mr. Lutton, Ms. Sumpter, Mrs. Cline and Dr. Case. Also present were Jonie Riddle and Mary Eckerle.

An Executive Session was held at 5:30 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. Proper notification was given.

Ms. Sumpter called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

On motion of Mr. Cline, seconded by Mr. Breen, the minutes of the February 23, 2021 meeting was unanimously approved.

On motion of Mr. Cline, seconded by Mr. Breen, the Treasurer's report and payment of the docket was unanimously accepted and payment authorized. The register of claims is made a part of these minutes.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$1,655,782.89 in the Library Operating Fund as of February 28, 2021.

**New Business:**

**Travel, meeting attendance:** On motion of Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson, attendance, travel, and related expenses were unanimously approved for the following meeting: April 27-29 Virtual, COSUGI (a conference for system administrators using SirsiDynix products), Joe Fox, registration.

**Technology:** 1) This year, several patron and staff computers need replacement. The four patron computers in the Indiana Room are at the top of the list. Mrs. Eckerle stated that she and Paul Burritt will solicit three quotes before making a choice. There was Board consensus on doing this; 2) After consulting with EDGE computing, Mr. Burritt believes it is possible to wait until next year to replace the server; and 3) Mary Eckerle has received an estimate for a new layer of cybersecurity software that would be beneficial to the Library, but she will check with other libraries and institutions to see if this second layer is necessary.

**Policies:** The WIFI Hotspot Lending Policy is presented with one added sentence at the end of the policy. By consensus of the Board, this policy was revised.

**COVID discussion:** MPL will probably begin live events in April and May. Some events will take place outdoors, weather permitting. If programs are inside, there will be social distancing. Patrons and staff will continue wearing masks. Meeting Rooms remain open. The Friends Booksale will take place in the Library Connector on April 9 and 10.

**Indiana Legislative Session:** The Legislative session is at midway point. Indiana Library Federation urges libraries to tighten up Collection Development policies as well as Internet Safety policies. In addition, the ILF urges libraries to invite legislators to visit once the Session is over.

**Library Inservice:** Now that Grant County is back in the BLUE, staff would like to plan the yearly in-service that did not happen in 2020. This would be a full day where the Library would be closed. If possible, it would take place in late April or May.

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

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

**Staff:** June Felton is resigning from her position of curator of the Marion Public Library Museum effective April 30, 2021. Her last day of work will be Friday, April 16.

**Properties:** a) Roger Marx is working on adding two study rooms to the reference area upstairs using existing materials. These will be a huge help since there have been several people needing quiet spaces right now; and b) Roger Marx is also assisting in drawing up plans to use the former Teen area as a makerspace/meeting area again.

**Children's/Youth Services:** 1) Virtual Programming on FB – During the month of February, there was a Virtual STEAM Challenge – Build a Mars Rover. Library kits included materials to test, evaluate, and redesign a rover; 2) In-person Programming – none; 3) At the Library: During the month of February, there were 18 curbside orders. There were 400 grab and go crafts. The Battle Boxes for the Battle of Book competition are prepared and ready for coaches to pick-up. There are 13 teams competing in the Battle of the Books; and 4) Upcoming – Telling A People's Story exhibit from April 6 to May 29. The Summer Reading dates will be June 1 to July 10. The Summer Reading Theme is still in development.

**Indiana History & Genealogy:** The Virtual Genealogy Club is meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month. March 11 meeting was a Question and Sharing time. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, Vicki Casteel from the Indiana State Archives will be presenting a program on the resources of the Archives.

**Reference Services/Adult Programming:** 1) The Racial Equity kits (Indiana Humanities grant) are finished and ready to be circulated. Each kit contains five or more books as well as discussion guides/questions to be used as conversation starters; 2) There is now a monthly Virtual Trivia night; 3) Barbara Dixon and Christina Rowland created a Virtual Seed Bomb demonstration and there are grab and go kits on making seed bombs; 4) The Seed Library is now open and has around 750 packets of seeds; 5) During February, there were displays on Martin Luther King, Jr., Kindness, Travel, Historical Museum photographs, and RCA artifacts; and 6) The 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday Book Discussion continues to be popular both in person and by Zoom.

**Teen Programming:** 1) Kristen Gioe is planning three take & makes for teens; and 2) She is planning the Teen Summer Reading program which will have the same dates as the Children and Adult programs.

**Circulation:** 1) Marion Public Library has joined a Hoopla Flex plan. This new service will allow MPL to offer new release downloadable titles to patrons. In addition to the 6 Hoopla instant borrows patrons receive each month, patrons will be able to borrow 4 Hoopla Flex borrows on specially marked Hoopla Flex eBooks and audiobooks; 2) Mrs. Morgan has updated patron list on Horizon to reflect those who have passed away and very old accounts; and 3) There is a new Job board with current listings across from the Connector display case.

**Head of Technical Services/System Administrator:** 1) Joe Fox has been working on updates and additions to make our Circulation system more efficient and user friendly; 2) The new Wowbrary system premiered during the first week of March; 3) The Sustainable Shelves program in partnership with Baker & Taylor is taking some of the Library's weeded and unsellable books and either recycling them or having Baker & Taylor selling them for cash; 4) Joe Fox works with Christina Rowland to produce the monthly virtual STEAM programs; and 5) Joe Fox will soon have a virtual book talk on some of the databases that the Library offers.

**Museum:** 1) AARP has been doing a great job with their new appointment setup. So far, they have processed 877 tax forms; 2) The museum has recently added five new items; and June Felton is taking pictures of the latest collection.

**Network Manager:** 1) All of the hotspots have been upgraded to the latest version (MIFI); 2) Still trying to find a solution (that isn't terribly expensive) for wireless printing; and 3) There was a tornado drill scheduled for March 16.

**Marketing:** 1) The social media committee continues to be very active on Facebook and Instagram. Recently, the Library's Twitter account has been reactivated as well; and 2) Barbara Dixon and Brandon Houser were guests of Tim and Ed on WBAT on March 4. They promoted March events at the Library.

**National Library Week:** April 4-11. This year's theme is *Welcome to Your Library*. Staff is planning activities.

**Dr. Seuss controversy:** Here is a statement from Tylanna Jones, Children's/Youth Services.

These six Dr. Seuss books will no longer be published (the 4 we own are in bold):

- *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*
- *If I Ran the Zoo*
- *McElligot's Pool*
- *On Beyond Zebra!*
- ***Scrambled Eggs Super!***
- ***The Cat's Quizzer***
- We will keep currently owned copies of each title. We will keep these titles for historical and research purposes. These copies will be set to storage but available for circulation.

The ALA condemns censorship and works to ensure free access to information. [Free Access to Libraries for Minors](#), an interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights* (ALA's basic policy concerning access to information) states that, "Librarians and governing bodies should maintain that parents—and only parents—have the right and the responsibility to restrict the access of their children—and only their children—to library resources." Censorship by librarians of constitutionally protected speech, whether for protection or for any other reason, violates the First Amendment.

MPL strives to develop a collection that reflects all members of the community we serve. We offer a variety of materials. We strive to offer books that reflect diversity and inclusion for children, families, and caregivers. It is up to parents and caregivers to censor and choose books they find appropriate for their child.

**Indiana Humanities:** The following grants are still being implemented in 2021:

**Advancing Racial Equity:** This grant is almost complete. There are kits available for checkout in the Children's Department as well as Reference/Adult services.

**Telling a People's Story:** MPL will receive a travelling exhibit from Miami University of Ohio that will be on display from April 6 until the end of May. This exhibition looks at African American cultural and historical identity through the lens of children's illustrated literature. In connection with this exhibit, there will be programming that utilizes an Action Grant from Indiana Humanities. At this time, a committee is checking on the presenters that were scheduled for 2020 to see if they are still available this year.

**One State, One Story:** *The Year I Left Home* by Jean Thompson is the impetus for this grant. MPL received copies of the book and there will be a book discussion on March 29 left by Nancy Dayton, Taylor University. Along with this grant, there is a display of old Marion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Library.

**Women's Suffrage:** This year is the 101 anniversary of women getting the right to vote but it's still worth celebrating.

**LSTA Grant:** MPL now has the CriCut and the CriCut Press, several tools, and supplies to go with them; the laptop is now here, and Paul Burritt is getting the software downloaded. Staff members who are interested will begin watching tutorials and Barbara Dixon is looking for someone to come in and give a live demonstration. Once a few staff members have learned how to use it, they can start offering in house programs and/or letting people come in to use it by appointment and with their own supplies.

**Friends:** The Friends group would like to start meeting again. They wish to plan the annual Spring Booksale during National Library Week. It would take place April 9 & 10.

**Community Outreach:** 1) The DAR has the Connector display in March; 2) “What Were You Wearing” Domestic Violence Display is set for April; 3) The Library is working with WorkOne, the Chambers of Marion and Gas City and the Growth Council to hopefully bring back live Job Fairs soon; and 4) The Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive at the Marion Public Library on Thursday, April 29 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Appreciations:** 1) Mary Jo Parlee gave a shoutout to Debbie Ruth in Indiana History for her research on Clayton Brownlee; and 2) “Thank you for the books, crafts, and STEAM projects. We have had fun!” from Susan Angstmann and children.

**Adjournment/Next meeting:** Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 6 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_President \_\_\_\_\_Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_Member \_\_\_\_\_Member