

May 18, 2021

The Marion Public Library Board of Trustees met Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at 6 p.m. in the 2nd floor Library Program Room of the Marion Public Library. Present were Mrs. Nicholson, Mr. Breen, Mr. Cline, Ms. Sumpter, Mrs. Cline, Mr. Lutton and Dr. Case. Also present were Jonie Riddle and Mary Eckerle. Mr. Fox attended the first part of the meeting. This meeting was zoomed and one member of the public attended via the zoom link.

Ms. Sumpter called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. She welcomed Joe Fox, Head of Technical Services and Systems Administrator.

Mr. Fox gave a summary of some of his recent activities and accomplishments including Wowbrary and the recent book sale as well as the quest for Digital Access for our patrons.

On motion of Mr. Breen, seconded by Mr. Cline, the minutes of the April 20, 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 \$1,520,675.32 in the Library Operating Fund as of April 30, 2021.

New Business:

Travel, meeting attendance: None to report

Policies: With the passing of [HEA 1437](#) last month, Indiana library boards are now able to conduct meetings electronically even after the health emergency ends, so long as they have an **electronic meetings policy**. A policy was presented but was tabled after there were more questions. Mrs. Eckerle will continue to review sample policies and bring results to the June meeting.

Indiana History & Genealogy: Several years ago, the Indiana Genealogical Society and FamilySearch.org began a project to microfilm and make available online marriage records from every Indiana county. The project stalled uncompleted. Last year FamilySearch.org reached out to IGS to complete the project. I have reached out to Grant County Clerk Pam Harris about completing the records from Grant County which are done at no charge to the county. In addition to digitizing the marriage records FamilySearch.org has also offered to digitize the probate packets (which go back to the 1830's) as part of the project. If Grant County agrees to the project and includes the probate packets, local help will be needed to unfold and flatten the packets. I have offered, with Mary's approval, to help coordinate volunteers for this part of the project. I am currently waiting for the clerk to decide if the county will participate. This project has the endorsement of Chandler Leighty, the State Archivist. On motion of Mr. Breen, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson, the Board unanimously authorized Mr. Cline to write a letter to Pam Harris giving Board support to this project. Mrs. Sumpter will sign on behalf of the Board.

COVID discussion:

- 1) **Mask mandate:** On motion of Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mr. Cline, the Board unanimously supported a new Mask policy beginning June 1. The current Mask Mandate will expire on May 31. Beginning June 1, per CDC guidelines and Board action, vaccinated people may choose whether to wear a mask in the building. Patrons who are not immunized are requested to wear masks.
- 2) **Quarantining items:** The Circulation Department will continue to quarantine items but have switched from quarantining for 72 hours to 24 hours.
- 3) **Meeting updates:** The Meeting Rooms are getting busier. It was suggested that that masks still be worn in the smaller meeting rooms on the second floor.

Library hours: It seems to be a good time to look at current hours and see if changes could be made to accommodate library, programming, and patrons needs. A list of the hours of several other Indiana libraries was given as a comparison. After discussion, a motion was made by J.D. Lutton and seconded by Mrs. Cline to change summer hours to the following: Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The motion carried with two nay votes. This schedule will remain in effect until Labor Day. In the fall, evening hours might be 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday hours would remain the same and there would not be Sunday hours. This could change.

American Rescue Plan: Mayor Alumbaugh is putting together a committee for the American Rescue Plan funds. He asked for Library participation. The goal for this committee is to identify potential projects, needs and investments that will qualify within the guidelines of this plan. The mayor stated that Mike Cline has expressed interest in being on this committee. Mike Cline is willing to serve pending board approval. On motion of Mr. Breen, seconded by Mr. Lutton, the Board unanimously appointed Mr. Cline to the Mayor's Committee for the American Rescue Plan. Mr. Cline will also have a subcommittee of Board members and the Director to assist in decision-making.

The following are information items related to the American Rescue Plan Act:

1. **Indiana Humanities:** Early this summer, Indiana Humanities will begin offering **relief funds to libraries, historical societies, museums, and other tax-exempt groups affected by the coronavirus pandemic.** The funds come from the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) approved by Congress and signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden.
2. **Erate:** New federal funding totaling \$7.1 billion is available to reimburse schools and libraries for 100% of the cost of laptops, hotspots, or other items that provide internet to staff, students, and library patron homes. This funding, called the Emergency Connectivity Fund ("ECF"), is part of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, also called the COVID-19 Stimulus Package. These reimbursements are first for purchases to be made between July 2021 – June 2022, and if funding remains, they will reimburse for purchases that were between March 2020 – June 2021. Please see the attached list for full details of devices and services eligible for 100% reimbursement.

The government is funneling this through the E-Rate program. AdTec, with our thorough knowledge of E-Rate, is perfectly positioned to help your school/library receive these reimbursements. To account for the additional administrative responsibility, AdTec is requiring a contract for our filing fees. After reviewing the attached list, if you do not plan to purchase any eligible pandemic-incurred costs, please simply respond to this email, and let us know.

3. **Indiana State Library:** The Indiana State Library has received approximately \$3.47 million dollars through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). These funds are intended to serve as a stimulus for Indiana's libraries as they respond to and resume services after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fine-Free libraries: Many libraries in Indiana and the nation have gone fine-free. More information will be available at the meeting. Mrs. Eckerle passed out information on libraries that have gone fine-free and information on the benefits of this initiative. It will be discussed at future meetings.

Outdoor Planning Committee: It is time to look at possibilities for using outdoor spaces for programming. Some staff have expressed interest in this endeavor and, hopefully, some members of the Board might want to serve on this committee.

Emergency Broadband Benefit Program: Please see attached. MPL is helping to publicize this.

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

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

Staff: No changes to report.

Properties: 1) Roger Marx kept busy with replacement of some condensers on the roof; and 2) With the meeting rooms open again, the maintenance department keeps busy with sanitation and other duties.

Bus Shelter: Activity in the shelter has been down this past month. Staff has more alert to monitoring the situation outside the buildings.

Children's/Youth Services: 1) In-person Programming. Outdoor Storytime in April. 9 children and 8 adults; 2) At the Library. During the month of April, there were 17 curbside orders. 15 Book Bundles were checked out. There were 500 grab and go crafts; 3) The Summer Reading club dates are June 1 through July 10, and the theme is *Opening Doors*. Summer reading flyers are being distributed to all the schools and preschools.

Reference Services/Adult Programming: 1) The first week of April was National Library Week and the Reference Department had library-themed coloring sheets, a word search, and a crossword puzzle for patrons to take. Kristie Fuller Also created two displays, one on Dale Carnegie, and one on the local Carnegie libraries. Sheri Sharlow created a variety of promotional materials for it as well; 2) The Reference Department partnered with Family Services on a display called "What Were You Wearing?" that was aimed at bringing awareness to victims of sexual assault and victim blaming. The display included clothing that was like what actual victims had been wearing when they were assaulted, victim statements, bookmarks, free adult coloring books, library books, and other information for patrons. There was a lot of foot traffic around the display; 3) Christina has continued to do a once-a-month trivia night for all ages as well as posting an art/craft video to the library's Facebook page; and d) The seed library has been getting a lot of interest.

Teen Programming: Kristen Gioe is also preparing for the Teen Summer Reading Club.

Indiana History: The Virtual Genealogy Club is meeting on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. On May 13, Ron Darrah presented on finding military records for genealogy research. May 27 will be a sharing/question time.

Museum: Sue Bratton began her Interim position on May 3. Since then, she and Mary Eckerle have met weekly to set out priorities and a timeline for the next four months. Mary Eckerle will update the Board on Tuesday evening.

Circulation: Northwood Manor Assisted Living will no longer be checking out books for their residents because they have been losing books. MPL is reaching out to them to see what can be done to make this work; and b) VHS tapes are no longer available at the library. The only remaining ones are local history titles.

Head of Technical Services/System Administrator: a) The Sustainable Shelves project is going well with the assistance of Kristie Fuller. She has processed over 16 boxes that have been sent to Baker & Taylor. Joe Fox will explain Sustainable Shelves on Tuesday night; and b) Joe Fox is learning the ins and out of our SirsiDynix system. He attended an online conference recently and is finding out about all the products (and their add-on costs). He has been general new and helpful reports which will help in assessing future library needs; and c) Joe Fox is also active in helping to plan the Indiana Library Federation's Annual Conference.

Network Manager: Paul Burritt has been training staff on wireless printing which continues to be popular.

Marketing: 1) Brandon Houser has taken over a weekly newsletter on *Constant Contact*. Staff is trying to increase awareness of this; 2) Sheri Sharlow keeps the community UpToDate with webpage updates and Facebook posts; and 3) Joe Fox and Tylanna Jones were IN PERSON on the radio in May. The Library's monthly spot has been switched to Friday mornings at 8:10 a.m.

Indiana Humanities: Indiana Humanities has been gracious to extend deadlines when needed and to work with libraries to help find speakers and programs.

1. Telling a People's Story Grant: a) The exhibit from Miami of Ohio Institute of Art arrived and will be at the Library until May 29; b) Curt Witcher from Allen County Public Library zoomed his presentation on the importance of finding out family stories and writing one's own story; c) Celestine Bloomfield, a storyteller of African America stories, gave a virtual presentation of several stories; and d) Still to come are programs presented by Tashema Davis and the African Drum Circle.
2. Writing Grant: Shari Wagner gave a virtual writing workshop virtually on April 24. The theme was to be able to tell a personal story through poetry.
3. One State One Story: There is more program to complete this grant. Nancy Dalton from Taylor facilitated a book discussion of *The Year We Left Home*. And there have been two Library displays.
4. Women's Suffrage Grant: This grant is yet to be fulfilled.

CDBG grant: With this grant, Marion Public Library will host a kiosk that is designed for people with disabilities. At this time, a location for the kiosk has not been determined.

Friends: The Friends Book Sale remained in the Connector for almost a month. The final amount of \$2534.39. The Friends group will also hold a fall book sale. Date tba.

Community Outreach: 1) MPL participated in a Little Giants Preschool night at Justice and at Earth Day at Matter Park; 2) AARP volunteers have completed their tax season at the Marion Public Library. There were 2,831 appointments; and 3) The Red Cross Blood Drive held on April 29 was successful with 26 donors. The next Blood Drive is scheduled for Wednesday, June 23 from 12 noon to 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment/Next meeting: Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 6 p.m.

_____ President _____ Secretary

_____ Member _____ Member

EMERGEN BROADBAN BENEFIT

The logo for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is centered below the text. It consists of the letters 'FCC' in a blue, sans-serif font, enclosed within a red circular border.

Starting May 12, families and households struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic can get help from a new federal program. The \$3.2 billion Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program, administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), provides a discount up to \$50 per month for broadband service (or up to \$75 per month on qualifying tribal lands) and a one-time discount up to \$100 for a

laptop, desktop, or tablet computer purchased through a participating provider. Library staffers in all settings and other broadband equity advocates can help raise awareness of this new emergency funding.

Program and application essentials, including eligibility, are outlined in a new [FCC-American Library Association \(ALA\) fact sheet](#) for libraries. A household is eligible if one of its members meets any of the following criteria:

- Has an income at or below 135% of the [federal poverty guidelines](#) or participates in certain assistance programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicaid, or Lifeline
- Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, or did so during the 2019–2020 school year
- Received a federal Pell Grant during the current award year
- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider’s existing low-income or COVID-19 program

The EBB program is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household. Having existing outstanding payments to a broadband provider does not disqualify a household from eligibility. EBB funds go directly to the participating broadband service providers. ([See a list of participating providers by state and territory.](#))

The program will end once funds are exhausted or six months after the Department of Health and Human Services declares an end to the pandemic, whichever comes first. For this reason, getting the word out quickly to parents, students, families, and all households lacking home internet is critical.

The FCC is providing [a toolkit of promotional materials to be used by libraries and other outreach partners nationwide](#), and ALA has customized options for a [library press release](#) and [newsletter blurb](#). FCC materials include multilingual consumer handouts and fact sheets, as well as English and Spanish social media messages, images, and slides. Advocates can join a national day of action on May 14 called by Next Century Cities and [find additional information and outreach strategies on its website](#). Next Century Cities, New York State Library, and the New York State Broadband Office will also [cohost a webinar May 14, 1–2 p.m. Eastern](#), for local and state leaders to share best practices.

Funding was allocated for the program as part of a bipartisan COVID-19 relief bill passed in December 2020. ALA filed comments with the FCC during the rulemaking process.

FacebookTwitterEmailPrint

LARRA CLARK is deputy director of the ALA Public Policy and Advocacy Office and deputy director of the Public Library Association.