

MPL Board of Trustees minutes
9-21-2021

The Marion Public Library Board of Trustees met Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 6 p.m. in the 2nd floor Library Program Room of the Marion Public Library. Present were Mrs. Nicholson, Mr. Cline, Ms. Sumpter, Mrs. Cline, Mr. Lutton and Dr. Case. Mr. Breen was absent. Also present were Jonie Riddle and Mary Eckerle. Carl Gingerich, a reporter for the *Chronicle-Tribune* was also present. This meeting was zoomed with two viewers.

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

The first item of business was the **Public Hearing** on the 2022 budget. No members of the public were present. At this time, by motion of Mr. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Cline, the Public Hearing meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Ms. Sumpter called the regular meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

On motion of Mr. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson, the minutes of the August 17, 2021, meeting was unanimously approved.

On motion of Mr. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson, 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 \$2,041,248.99 in the Library Operating Fund as of August 30, 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: 1) August 20, Anderson Menards for Metal framing, Roger Marx, mileage.

Budget 2022: The advertised budget was posted on the Gateway site on August 30. The advertised budget is also available on the Library's website and was also on the Library's Facebook page. The Public Hearing on the budget will also be available on Zoom.

Finances: 1) I & M has proposed a rate hike that might affect the electricity budget; 2) The Library will cut off major spending at the end of September to ensure a healthy balance going into 2022; and 3) Kristen Goe now has a Teen Activity Room next to the new Teen area. She will have her programs in this room. It needs furniture and 4 tables, 4 chairs, two sofas, two bar stools, and a small refrigerator totaling \$7,413.09 will be purchased from the Webster Gift Fund for this area.

County Council Redistribution of Funds: The various entities belonging to the Grant County Tax Council are beginning to meet to vote on the redistribution of funds. The County Council voted yes. Swayzee Town Council voted no. Marion City Council votes on September 21. Fairmount, Jonesboro, and Upland votes are needed to reject the measure.

American Rescue Plan: Marion Public Library received a letter from the Indiana State Library on September 16. MPL has been awarded a grant of \$25,705.76. The grant request was for \$97,352. The State Library asked that the Library adjust its budget to reduce expenditures and resubmit the application OR come up with a different project. The Core committee made some cuts and plans to stay within the partial grant award amount.

COVID: 1) Patrons have been accepting the mask mandate better than the first time round; 2) Programs are being planned with social distancing in mind; and 3) Mary Eckerle is participating in weekly calls with Marion General Hospital and the Grant County Health Department that are facilitated by the Chamber.

E-Rate Resolution: A Resolution to continue in the Indiana State Consortium for Public Library Internet Access for Funding Year July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, will be presented. This is an annual renewal. The Consortium provides e-rate services for Indiana libraries. On motion of Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mr. Cline, the E-Rate Resolution was unanimously approved.

Museum: Collen Cramer has been hired at the new Head of Museum Services. He is a graduate of Taylor University and received his master's degree from University of Memphis. He lives in Gas City. He will begin work on Monday, September 20.

Board Reappointment: Ed Breen is completing his first term on the Board at the end of 2021. He was appointed by the Grant County Council in 2017 to complete Jerry Holderead's unexpired term. A letter will be sent to the Council to approve his reappointment.

Mileage: Staff members are travelling again (although this could end soon). From the State Budget agency: "Based on the current evaluation conducted on July 1, 2021, the personal vehicle mileage reimbursement will remain at \$0.39 per mile." On motion of Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mr. Cline, the \$0.39 mileage was unanimously approved.

Jay House: Mary Eckerle provided updates on the Jay House.

Grant County Literacy Council: The Grant County Literacy Council has voted to disband. They have done tutoring within our Library for many years and have had an office here. The Council maintains that there hasn't been interest in quite a while. The Marion Community Schools offers SBE and HSED assistance plus there are programs online. A few members are willing to tutor if the Library receives some requests (MPL has always been the contact phone number for those requesting help). The Council also has some money that they would like to turn over to the Library.

Collection Development Policy: School systems throughout Indiana and beyond are being challenged by parent groups who want certain books removed from the school libraries and the curriculums. All libraries, public and school, are being urged by the American Library Association and the Indiana Library Federation to have Collection Development policies in order and to prepare staff for challenges. MPL updates the Collection Policy yearly and will be doing that before year-end.

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

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

Staff: 1) Federa Smith has been hired to work part-time at the Reference desk. Ms. Smith was principal of Lincoln School and Justice Middle School and she taught in the Marion School system for many years; and 2) Emma Reel is the new page in the Children's Department. Ms. Reel recently graduated from Mississinewa High School.

Betty Reynolds, long time employee in Indiana History & Genealogy, passed away on August 29, 2021. She will be missed.

Properties: 1) Roger Marx is working on installation of a new wall and door to the Library Programming Room on the second floor. This will give library meetings and programs some privacy from the Reference area; and 2) Instead of contracting with an outside company for pest control, Mr. Marx will set up a schedule and will take care of pest control for the premises. This will be reevaluated after a few months.

Library Neighborhood: 1) Mary Eckerle met with Liz Wright at the Senior Center. Mrs. Wright has noticed more homeless people in the downtown area. She has been in contact with the police. There have

been blankets and other items left on the Senior Center premises; and 2) Mary Eckerle met with Wes Rediger who is the new pastor of First United Methodist Church. He and his Church are also concerned about the neighborhood and what can be done to help the homeless situation.

Children's/Youth Services: 1) The Children's staff are creating Grab & Go craft kits again. This month's craft is a Pirate parrot International "Talk Like a Pirate Day" is Sunday, September 19; 2) Good turnout for all Friday morning storytimes; 3) Lego Club met on Saturday, August 28; 4) The Homeschool Book Club (Grades 6-8) and Book Club (Grades 3 -5) will begin meeting again in September; 5) STEAM Stations met on Saturday, September 11; 6) Tylanna Jones attended the CYPD conference and these programs: Keep Indiana Learning, Taking it Outside, Story Time & SEL, Using Outdoor Space, Self-Care Programming, and Libraries: More Than just Reading; 7) The Habitat for Humanity playhouse in the Children's Courtyard is being deconstructed. It was vandalized again; and 8) The *Stories to Go* kits are being updated and will be renamed *Read & Play* kits. There are now ten of them for patrons to check out.

Reference Services/Adult Programming: 1) Ronnie Morrell was the guest speaker for the August "Ask the Expert" program. He gave a very informative talk on starting and running his business, Morrell's Scooters. Seven people attended; 2) The August adult craft had 4 people in attendance; 3) The August book discussion drew 14 people; 4) Christina's CriCut program had 5 people; 5) The Senior Center is giving MPL their entire inventory of craft supplies. They are no longer going to have their own craft time but wish to be included in the Library's; and 6) Displays this month featured food preservation, canning, insects, seashells, Julia Child, and the history of aviation.

Teen Programming: 1) The Youth Services Conference was a good experience. Kristen Gioe attended some great sessions including Virtual Gaming 101, Using CriCuts, Where do we go from here, Taking STEAM Virtual, Self-Care Programming, Libraries: More than Just Books; and 2) Mrs. Gioe is getting the Teen Program Room ready for Teen Tuesdays (which began September 14).

Indiana History & Genealogy: 1) The Virtual Genealogy Club continues to meet and have good attendance. August 12 was a sharing/question time with 5 attending and August 26 was Jeannie Regan-Dinius from the Indiana DNR speaking about the Underground Railroad in Indiana and Grant County with 12 attending including people from Washington state and Illinois. September 9 was a sharing/question time with 4 attending and September 23 will be Bill Munn speaking about early mills in grant County; 2) Update on the Grant County records digitization project: Rhonda Stoffer is waiting to hear from Pam Harris on the status of purchasing supplies for the probate packet project; and 3) Sheri Sharlow and Rhonda Stoffer have researched event and room management programs. They had demos from three companies and contacted several libraries who were using the programs. They recommended using Assabet and the Library will begin using this program in October. Staff should be able to use Assabet to schedule meeting rooms, study rooms, appointments, calendar events, and program registration all online.

Museum: Sue Bratton is gathering materials for General Motors. GM is celebrating its 65th anniversary on October 7 and the borrowed items will be on display.

Circulation: 1) Northwood Manor has begun borrowing materials again for residents. Natalie Garner oversees selecting the titles which are checked out for one month; 2) Jeffrey Tomlinson is now ordering and overseeing the graphic novels. This is of special interest to him; and 3) Joanne Hix is now assisting in the acquisition of fiction books for the Library. Fiction is the most popular genre and it's great to have more than one person doing the ordering.

Head of Technical Services/System Administrator: 1) The new SkyRiver cataloging program is cutting work time. This program features over 74 million recorded so Mr. Fox is finding it extremely valuable for Library's needs; and 2) Mr. Fox also made changes to the printed checkout receipts to now reflect a cost savings figure at the bottom.

Network Manager: Mr. Burritt has been dealing with multiple computer issues. Because of the backlog on ordering new computers and laptops, Mr. Burritt is making use of all the equipment in the building and checking pricing to get the best deals when computers, laptops and monitors are needed.

Marketing: a) Recca Black and Mary Eckerle were on WBAT on September 3. They discussed the Library's exhibits on September 11; and b) The *News Herald* had a story on the LIT on September 1 and the Marion Public Library was featured in the article.

Community Outreach: 1) Jami Beck, Mary Eckerle, Joe Fox, Michelle Morgan, and Christina Rowland participated in Taste of Marion at IWU on September 3. Quite a few students stopped by the library's table; 2) Tylanna Jones spoke to the CSA afterschool enrichment program about the library and its services. She shared her own story, what she does at the library, and she talked about storytelling; and 3) MPL will host a Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, September 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Appreciations: 1) Mary Stievers and Mark Biacuso wrote to Renee Bissell-Cole in the Indiana Room: "First we'd like to profusely thank you for all your efforts on our behalf! You, and the Marion Public Library, have been nothings short of wonderful! Enclosed is a check to cover the copy costs. Also, enclosed is another check, a contribution to the Marion Public Library for its fine work in preserving local history. With best wishes and highest regards," and 2) "Thank you for visiting us and sharing stories with us. We loved hearing about the library!" CSA After School Arts Enrichment Program.

Adjournment/Next meeting: Tuesday, October 19, at 6 p.m. At this meeting, the 2022 budget will be adopted.

_____ President _____ Secretary

_____ Member _____ Member