

April 15, 2025

The Marion Public Library Board of Trustees met Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. on the second floor in the Library Program Room of the Marion Public Library. Present were Mrs. Pogue, Mr. Owen, Mr. Gilmore, Mrs. Nicholson, Mrs. Wilk, Ms. Sumpter 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 18, 2024, meeting was approved following a motion by Mrs. Wilk, seconded by Mr. Owen. The motion passed unanimously.

On the motion of Ms. Sumpter, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson, 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 \$3,302,417.12 in the Library Operating Fund as of March 31, 2025.

Business:

Elevator: The Director presented a quote from American Elevator for necessary elevator repairs. A total of four companies were contacted, and two quotes were received. Following review, a motion to accept the quote from American Elevator was made by Mr. Gilmore and seconded by Mrs. Nicholson. The motion passed unanimously.

StoryWalk Invitation: Director Jaime Pitt shared details about the upcoming ribbon-cutting event for the Story Walk at Matter Park, scheduled for April 24th at 4:30 PM in celebration of Earth Day. The event will be attended by the Mayor and representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, with refreshments provided for attendees. The Story Walk is a community engagement initiative designed to promote reading and literacy while also supporting the local library.

Library Budget & State Funding: Director Jaime Pitt also shared concerns regarding the library's budget, with particular attention to the local income tax and its potential impact. She plans to attend the upcoming County Council meeting to stay informed and advocate for library funding. Additionally, she addressed ongoing uncertainty surrounding the state's commitment to the Imagination Library program, noting that the United Way plans to continue local funding sources to support it in addition to funds raised by the Governor's wife. Lastly, she expressed concern about the potential effects of recent legislative changes on the library's technology infrastructure and interlibrary loan services.

Bylaws Discussion: The Board reviewed and discussed the current bylaws. A committee was formed to propose potential changes, with Mrs. Wilk serving as chair, and Mr. Gilmore and Director Jaime Pitt providing support. The proposed revisions will be presented for review at the next board meeting.

I. Director's Report

1. **Materials and Services:** Statistics will be presented at the meeting.
2. **Staff:** No staffing changes
3. **Conferences/Travel** – Jaime will attend ILF Regional Conference in May.
4. **Community Engagement:** Radio segment WBAT; MPL Happenings in the Chronicle Tribune; NearSpace Education partnership meeting; Staff Wears Blue to support Child Prevention Abuse month; Attended GC Commissioners Meeting; Madison Grant Kindergarten Round-up.
5. **Grants:** IEEE Region 4 Science Kits for Public Libraries has approved a \$2,000 grant to support the creation of STEM kits for our community. This funding will enhance our library's offerings and provide valuable educational resources. We are excited to move forward with the project.
6. **Courtyard Update:** I am pleased to provide an update on the progress of the courtyard project. Since the last board meeting, work has moved forward smoothly. The terrace concrete work has been completed, and fencing is currently being installed in the children's area. Additionally, a custom bench is being constructed for that space, and accessories and plants have been ordered to enhance the overall design. The pergola is expected to be installed within the next week or two, and Synlawn installation is scheduled for May.

Overall, significant improvements are being made, and things are progressing well. It has been a pleasure working with Caladin, who has been efficient and responsive throughout the process. We will continue to keep you informed as the project moves forward.

7. Children's/Youth (Tylanna)

Programs:

- We offered 21 programs throughout March.
- Our Spring Break programs were particularly well-attended, with over 400 patrons visiting to enjoy the Wonderspace Big Blue Blocks in the activity room.
- In addition to Wonderspace, we provided a diverse range of daily programs during Spring Break:
 - Saturday: Playdough Playtime
 - Monday: Paws to Read
 - Tuesday: Family Storytime with Ceola Friday
 - Wednesday: Community Helpers Storytime and Drum Circle
 - Thursday: Lego Club
 - Friday: Family Game Night

- In total, including Wonderspace, we engaged 627 patrons through Spring Break programming. It was a fun-filled and busy week!

Outreach:

- On Thursday, March 6, we were invited by the Training Center to read to students in celebration of Read Across America. We also held a brief session on how to take care of books.
- On Friday, March 14, we participated in their Family Literacy Night, connecting with students and families. We shared information about library card registration and our programming schedule.

Storywalk:

- The ribbon-cutting for the Storywalk will take place on Thursday, April 24, at 4:30 PM during the Earth Day event at Matter Park. The featured book will be *Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt* by Kate Messner, illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal. We are excited about the opportunity to blend literacy, nature, and movement.

Other:

- Throughout March, we celebrated Read Across America by offering a fun reading challenge. Patrons received a United States map and checked out books set in or about the 50 states. After reading five picture books or one chapter book, participants could choose a prize.

8. Circulation Services (Michelle)

- Garfield Visitors –Goodyear AZ, Sheboygan WI, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Michigan, and several towns around the state.
- Joanne and I visited Wells County Public Library, Huntington Public Library, Wabash Public Library and Wabash County Museum. We had a wonderful time talking with area librarians and came back with some good ideas!
- Weeded the nonfiction DVD collection in anticipation of the MPL Booksale. Sale will begin on Friday, May 2nd.
- Attended the Friends meeting and was asked to be the library liaison to the Friends group.

New Library Cards:

Adults: 54

Children: 14

*We also updated numerous accounts

Care Kits: 51 plus 9 special one-time kits.

9. Indiana History (Rhonda)

- The social media committee continues to be very active on Facebook and Instagram. Please let one of us know if you have anything to promote.
- Final update on the county records digitization project: uploaded records still stand at 5,986 items uploaded to FamilySearch.org, the same as last month. Since no more has been added, I am assuming that all scans have now been added to the website.

- **BookEye scanner:** Kelsey and I have selected our first scanning projects for the new scanner. We will be scanning the blueprints for the First Friends Church, designed by Samuel Plato and a school record book from 1924 for children in the Children's Home. We are waiting for an external hard drive to arrive to store the images.
- I am currently working on two programs at the moment. Researcher Tom Brown has agreed to do a program on 17 Freedom Riders who came through Grant County on the Underground Railroad in the 1830's and were aided by Thomas and Lydia Baldwin. Dr. Kersten Priest, who headed up the previous Weaver research project, is currently doing research on Jamestown, North Carolina's African American settlement and its connection to Grant County. The Pettiford and Weaver families lived at Jamestown before coming to Weaver. We have not set dates yet, still working on the details.
- **Chronicle-Tribune photos:** we are currently working to separate the photographs into local and non-local boxes. The Grant County Historical Society will be using its March meeting on March 19th as a work night to help organize and research the local photographs to create an index so we can begin the scanning process. We have been able to reduce the number of photos by 2/3 as we will concentrate on the local photos for scanning.

10. Museum (Kelsey)

Museum Report

- **Tours and Engagement:** We hosted three local groups—two high school groups from Carey Services and Tim Harris's Leadership Class. The tours were well-received, with many engaging questions.
- **Indiana Historical Society Grant:** We prepared the first step of our application for the IHS Project Grant, aiming to fund a part-time position to assist with processing Chronicle-Tribune items.
- **Chronicle-Tribune Photo Project:** A work session with the Grant County Historical Society helped us make progress on indexing photo prints from the *Chronicle-Tribune*. About 12 volunteers contributed, and several have returned to continue the work.
- **Architectural Conservation Assessment:** We received quotes for updating the 2009 Architectural Conservation Assessment of the museum. We are seeking funding assistance for this update.
- **New Volunteer:** We welcomed Linda, our new volunteer, who will assist with object inventories and volunteer in the Indiana Room.
- **Exhibits and Events:**
 - Kelsey finalized details for the *From Pencils to Pixels* traveling exhibit from the Indiana Historical Society, which will run in the museum lobby from April 8 – May 1.
 - Gabe curated a Garfield/Eric Reaves exhibit to complement the *From Pencils to Pixels* exhibit, with support from the Children's department and Indiana Room.
 - Gabe also showcased museum collection items for several group tours and the ACRES Land Trust presentation.

- **Environmental Monitoring:** Roger installed humidity and temperature monitors throughout the museum, including in the Indiana Room and basement, and added a dehumidifier to the document storage room.
- **Collaborative Events:**
 - We co-hosted a Book Talk with the Reference Department, featuring Barbara Morrow, at the Jay House.
- We hosted *Learning History Through Nature* with ACRES Land Trust, which was a fascinating presentation. We plan to have them back, and the recording should be available on YouTube soon.

Jay House Report

- **Meetings and Events:** We hosted 6 meetings (40 attendees), 2 library programs (15 attendees), and 1 outside rental (30 attendees) this month.

PPS Grant

- **Construction:** We signed with Caladin Construction, and work on the courtyard has begun. Bragg Excavating completed the demolition and reconstruction of the concrete terrace.
- **Additional Funding:** We applied for a grant to fund turf for the final section of the courtyard and additional furniture. We expect to hear results in mid-May.
- **Planting and Donations:** Kelsey finalized the list of native plants for the courtyard's in-ground beds. We also set up an Impact Giving Campaign through Better World to allow the public to donate toward specific courtyard items. While the campaign has had a slow start, we hope it will grow.

11. Networking

- Meet with Rick Streb from AVI about upgrading the sound system in meeting rooms A and B. Also, the security camera system upgrade in the Library and Museum.
- Meet with EdgeIT about the security camera upgrade.
- Went to Huntington with Rhonda to look at how they save, and store scanned items.
- Computer help for Patrons and staff.

10. Properties

- I changed several fluorescent lights around CIRC
- Recently, I also experimented with installing some LED replacements in several fixtures. I never fully believe the ratings on things like lights because my experience has been that they simply do not last as long as they claim. I am also doubtful when it comes to the "energy savings" claims with newer technology. I believe there are some savings, just not as much as they claim – there is a vested interest in selling the new technology. Because of this, I decided to test the actual energy usage of the LEDs (no ballast required) compared to the fluorescent lights with a ballast. What I found was completely unexpected – the 4, 25 watt LED lights

actually consume more energy than 4, 32 watt fluorescent lights with a ballast! Granted, this was a test of only one particular LED brand/model, and the measured difference was only 6 watts for a 4-light fixture, but multiply that by all of our fixtures and it is a significant amount. Still trying to figure this one out.

- The Terrace Concrete Repair project is completed, having survived some relatively minor defacement/vandalism while the concrete was still wet. The damage is nearly unnoticeable now.
- The Courtyard project is progressing rapidly. The crew is working on the custom bench and fence installation and, and now they are working on the pergola assembly and installation. After that, their work should be mostly done and we will be ready for SynLawn to work their magic
- At some point (before SynLawn installation) I will pressure wash the concrete walls around the courtyard to brighten things up. I will also trim the evergreen bushes on the east side so that they do not obscure the new signage.

11. Reference Services (Barb Enslin)

March was a busy month with our regular programs along with the addition of a few extras. Along with our normal Book Club, craft times, and Fiber craft, we had our first Wellness Wednesday about the dangers of tobacco and nicotine, a Bob Ross painting class, Book talk with author Barbara Morrow, Lunch & Learn with the Extension Office, and a Pysanky egg workshop with Carol Powers. I am collaborating with Marion Health to make the Wellness Wednesday a monthly program and the Extension Office is willing to do the Lunch & Learn bimonthly.

I am still working with Deb Guyer and the Quilter's Hall of Fame to get the rest of the necessary supplies to begin introductory classes in our sewing makerspace. It is really coming together nicely. Joanne Hix is going to teach a few beginner classes once everything is ready to go. Teresa Boucher is willing to do the Bob Ross painting classes every 3 or 4 months, and Carol Powers is already asking to do a class on the pysanky eggs this fall. We have also continued with our two passive programs, adult coloring and a puzzle table. Patrons seem to enjoy both areas regularly.

We had displays up that covered a wide range of topics, from the Tuskegee Airmen to Women's History, Alien abduction, butterflies, and more.

12. Technical Services (Kristen)

- We have 5 Mini Yoto players that are in the final stages of processing. These players will check out for 2 weeks with an adult card. The Yoto players will play the Yoto cards that we are already circulating. I would describe Yoto cards and players as an updated version of cd audiobooks and a cd player.
- I renewed my 5-year certification only to find out that I am a year early. They let me know that they have processed my payment and will hold my application until it is time to renew next year.

- Joanne and I are working on an audiobook case replacement project as we come across items that need repackaged. This saves us some shelving space and makes the collection look cleaner.
- Genealogy call number standardization project continues.

13. Teen Services (Madisyn)

Total Number of Events: 8

Total Attendance: 38

Success Story/Achievement:

- Several teens have consistently attended Open Hours on Thursdays, and some have begun inviting friends and encouraging others to return. My role during Open Hours has been minimal, focusing on creating a welcoming space. I believe this approach is beginning to resonate, as more teens feel comfortable and continue to come back.

Three Key Highlights:

- Anime Club experienced a notable increase in participants this month.
- A teen invited another to return for future sessions, even though they hadn't met before.
- The Teen Art Group held its first session this month, with one participant—hoping for more next month!

Displays:

- *Read Through the Rainbow*
- *Unlucky Characters*
- *Reading Makes Your Mind Bloom*

Adjournment/Next meeting: Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Gilmore, seconded by Mrs. Wilk, Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

_____ President *Richard [Signature]* Secretary
 _____ Member _____ Member

Liz Wilk
Umthia [Signature]
Ann H. [Signature]