

June 20, 2023

The Marion Public Library Board of Trustees met Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 6 p.m. in the second floor Library Program Room of the Marion Public Library. Present were Mrs. Nicholson, Dr. Case, Ms. Ketcham, Mrs. Pogue, Mr. Lutton and Ms. Sumpter. Mr. Cline joined by zoom. Jonie Riddle and Mary Eckerle were also present. There were no other viewers on zoom. Roger Marx was present for the first ten minutes of the meeting.

Library Board President Jeremy Case called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roger Marx was present at the beginning of the meeting. He went into more detail about costs for this year's Parking Lot project. One bid was received from E & B Paving, Fort Wayne, Indiana (as well as in some other cities in Indiana).

On motion of Mrs. Nicholson, seconded by Mr. Lutton, the minutes of the May 16, 2023, meeting was unanimously approved.

On motion of Ms. Ketcham, seconded by Ms. Sumpter, the Treasurer's report and payment of the dockets 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 \$2,374,785.51 in the Library Operating Fund as of May 31, 2023

Business:

Parking Lot Bid: The breakdown of the Bid is as follows: a) \$47,925 to remove and replace asphalt, complete new paint lines and check for additional repairs that might be needed in the patron parking lot; b) \$116,500 Possible cost of needed repairs – this won't be known until the parking lot under-surface is revealed; c) \$28,830 is the "optional" bid for preparing and paving the gravel lots where mostly staff park; and d) \$5,440 for the three alley approaches to be replaced with concrete as part of the City of Marion's 50-50 program. The possible total for the entire project will be approximately \$98,995. On motion of Ms. Sumpter, seconded by Mr. Lutton, the Board unanimously voted to accept the bid from E & L Paving, the optional bid, and the 50-50 bid and split the cost of this project into having the Library Improvement Reserve Fund, the Rainy Day Fund and the Modlin Gift Fund each pay for one-third. The Modlin Gift Fund would pay for the 50-50 alley project. As part of this motion, Mrs. Eckerle is authorized to be the signee for the contract/agreements.

Policies: The Study Room Policy Guidelines was presented. Discussion followed on how for-profits should be treated. It was decided that they would be charged the same rates as listed in the meeting room policy. The Study Rooms are heavily used.

Finance: a) Budget: The 2024 Budget process has begun. Mary Eckerle submitted the Pre-Budget report to the Department of Local Government Finance. The Growth Quotient should be released by the end of June. Jonie Riddle and Mary Eckerle will meet with the representative from the Department of Local Government Finance in July or August. The Public Hearing on the 2024 Budget will be at the September Board meeting and the Budget will be adopted at the October Board meeting. A comparison of Property Tax revenue from past years was distributed to Board members.

• Spring Property Tax draw.	Property taxes	766,109.40
	Excise	31,832.05
	CVET	4,091.
	FIT	7,245.78
	Total:	809,278.23

Jay House development: Marion Design Company has left the Jay House. There are still items in the House left from the Brain Kitchen. Mary Eckerle plans to meet with Amanda Drury soon to sort through what remains. The Jay House will need furniture for future development. The Plan for the House, which is being developed by Kelsey Winters, Mary Eckerle, Jonie Riddle, and Roger Marx, is to make the Jay House a venue for small groups to have meetings and events such as dorm RA retreats (IWU and Taylor), showers, and unique events. The staff is developing guidelines and a brochure. A Rental Agreement draft was given to Board members. Discussion centered around these issues: a) Charge for use of the Jay House needs to be higher to include maintenance and upkeep of the building; and b) The Board requested that the Library budget should not be used to purchase furniture until it is known that this project will work out. Board members said to try this arrangement through the end of this year and then determine its success.

Grant County Historical Society: Travis LeMaster of the Grant County Historical Society has requested that Renee Bissell-Cole continue in her position as liaison to the Board. On motion of Ms. Sumpter, seconded by Ms. Ketcham, the Board unanimously approved Mrs. Bissell-Cole as liaison.

Discussion items: 1) Library displays – Mary Eckerle is working on a Library Display policy that will be modeled after what some other libraries have done; and 2) Library Spending – Besides having a Resolution allowing payment of some bills between Board meetings, MPL Office staff does their very best to make sure that the Library does not incur late payments or interest charges on invoices. The State Board of Accounts asks about this in the Risk Management section of the Annual Report.

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

Materials and Services: Statistics were presented at the meeting.

Staff: No staff changes this past month. Criminal background checks continue – two per month.

Travel & Meeting: June 20, Columbia City, NICCL, Paul Burritt, Mileage.

Properties: 1) An air conditioning unit went out in the Indiana History department. Mr. Marx is making repairs; 2) Mr. Marx fielded many questions from solicitors about the parking lot project; and 3) Mr. Marx cleaned and did repairs in the Jay House.

Reference Services/Adult Programming: 1) The Summer Reading program has begun; 2) Sheri Conover-Sharlow continues to excel at getting all of the programs advertised on social media, as well as making sure that there are printed flyers available for in-house use; 3) The monthly Book Discussion is in its 18th year and still averages about ten attendees a month; 4) The Computer lab has new computers and they are up and running; and 5) There will be a few programs for adults during June.

Indiana History and Genealogy: Update on the county records digitization project: Currently, 820 record books and probate files have been uploaded to FamilySearch.org. Project manager Kim Walker recently met with Rhonda Stoffer and reported that this project is proceeding smoothly.

Circulation: 1) MPL has a plot in the Community Garden. Tomato plants and zucchini were planted. Michelle Morgan assists in the watering of the Garden twice a week; and 2) The Garfield statue continues to attract visitors from near and far. Recent visitors included people from Chicago, New York, Mozambique, and Brazil.

Technical Services: Shipping from B&T has been slow this month. MPL did not receive anything for nearly 2 weeks, but things have started to come in again.

Children's/Youth Services: 1) There were eighteen children's programs during the month of May. Programming will continue in June with a busy schedule of activities; 2) The Grab and Go projects are extremely popular; 3) St. Paul 3rd graders visited the Library for a tour, story, craft, and a talk about Summer Reading; and 4) Below is a listing of Summer Children's programs:

KIDS PROGRAMS @ MPL

Steven's Puppets: The Wizard of Oz
Tuesday, June 6 @ 5 pm
in Meeting Room B

Sign Language Class
Monday, June 19 - Thursday, June 22 @ 10am
in Meeting Room B - *sign up online

Science of Bubbles Show
Thursday, June 22 @ 2 pm
in Meeting Room B

Animals w/ Hedgehog Hannah
Thursday, July 6 @ 5 pm
@Matter Park Bandshell

Glow Dance Party
Thursday, July 27 @ 5 pm
in Meeting Room B

Kids Makerspace-Tuesdays, June 6-July 18 @4:30-5:30 pm

Storytime
Tuesdays @ 1 pm & Fridays @ 10:30 am

Steam and Stories
Saturday June 17, and July 15 @ 11:30 am

Lego Club
Saturday June 10, Thursday June 15, & Thursday June 29,
Saturday July 8, Thursday July 13 @ 11 am

Family Movies
Saturday, June 3 & Wednesday, June 14 @ 1 pm
Saturday, July 1 & Wednesday, July 12 @ 1 pm

Juneteenth: Recca Black joined Mary Eckerle in celebrating Juneteenth on Monday, June 19. There were Juneteenth displays in the Children's Department and on the second floor.

Museum: 1) Museum staff submitted an application for the Charm grant and another for a grant from the Indiana Historical Society; 2) Kelsey Winters and Collen Cramer attended a Fundraising Workshop given by Indiana Landmarks. SOS paid for their attendance; 3) Work and Research began on the 20th Century Black Marion Exhibition; 4) Began plans for blueprint digitization; 5) Hosted a Paint Party with Tashema Davis as instructor; and 6) Staff attended a Mental Health Matters Fair, the Senior Fair, and a school event in Summitville.

Teen Department: 1) There was low attendance at recent teen events, but staff members spread the word about Summer Reading and programs while doing outreach. Staff gave out teen flyers and spoke to teens at Marion Community Schools' ESL night at Justice on May 4 and at Kendall's Family Night on May 10. In addition, staff attended the Mental Health Matters event at Matter Park on May 19 and at Lakeview on May 22; and 2) Recent teen displays featured Asian America/Pacific Islander Heritage month; new non-fiction books, Pride Month, and popular picks.

Network Manager: Mr. Burritt, with assistance from Sean Harnett, completed the set-up and placement of the new computers. Eleven computers were placed in the Reference computer lab and eight computers went to the staff.

Marketing: Tylanna Jones and Madisyn Timmons were on WBAT on June 1. They invited the listeners to join the Summer Reading programs and attend the many activities offered at the Library this summer.

SOS as reported by Collen Cramer: 1) SOS members, including Collen Cramer and Kelsey Winters, attended a workshop at Indiana Landmarks on fundraising. There were many fundraising ideas and methods that can be used in the Carnegie Building; 2) SOS has planned a Downtown Restoration Tour for Friday, June 16. MPL's History Center will be featured on the tour. Mary Eckerle will greet the visitors and Collen Cramer will conduct the Tour. Museum staff assisted SOS in research and in organizing this activity; 3) SOS has provided consultation and assistance with the Quilters' renovation of the Train Depot on South Washington; and 5) SOS will co-host an ice cream social at the Train Depot on June 25.

Imagination Library: Staff from Thriving Families, Thriving Mill township, will be at MPL on June 23 to sign up children for the Imagination Library.

Boots Street Garden: This garden is looking better than it has for years. Kudos to IWU's Unity Garden workers and Kayla Johnson and some of her helpers from the City of Marion.

Community Outreach: 1) The museum will be featured as part of the Save Our Stories' *Behind Closed Doors: The Past, Present, & Future of Marion Restoration.* Tour on June 16; 2) MPL will be on hand to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Farmer's Market on the Square on July 8; and 3) The Quilters Celebration will be held July 20-22 with many activities (and the exhibits) here @ the History Center and Library.

Appreciations: 1)) Marion Public Library Staff – (Kids Department). Thank you so much for showing us the library, reading books, and making a craft. We had a blast! You are all awesome! Love – Mrs. Oney's 3rd grade class; 2) "Mary and Roger – We could not have kept doing our work without your generosity! Thank you for allowing us to use the Jay House for much longer than expected. Marion Design Co." 3) "Thank you for your investment in Greater Grant County! Your support allows us to work towards our mission of being a catalyst for business growth, and convener of leaders and influencers, and a champion for a stronger Grant County. We look forward to being a small part of your future success. Please do not hesitate to reach out if there is anything we can do for you. All the best. Kylie Jackson," Greater Grant County Chamber of Commerce; and 4) "Dear Friends, I so appreciate your participation in our 2nd Mental Health Matters event! Your active involvement made a significant impact on the success of the event. Your engaging storytelling captivated children's attention. Your support has helped us to show kids and parents how reading a book can help them regulate emotions at home. With heartfelt thanks, Kelly Monahan. Radiant Health."

Adjournment/Next meeting: Tuesday, July 18, 2023.

_____ President _____ Secretary

_____ Member _____ Member

