

September 16, 2025

The Marion Public Library Board of Trustees met Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. on the second floor in the Library Program Room of the Marion Public Library. Present were Mrs. Pogue, Ms. Sumpter, Mrs. Wilk, Mrs. Nicholson, Mr. Owen, and Mr. Gilmore. Jaime Pitt, Director was also in attendance.

Library Board President Melissa Pogue called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The minutes from the August 19, 2025, meeting was approved following a motion by Mrs. Wilk, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson. The motion carried unanimously.

The minutes from the September 2, 2025, meeting was approved following a motion by Ms. Sumpter, seconded by Mr. Owen. The motion carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Gilmore, seconded by Ms. Sumpter, the payment of the docket was unanimously accepted, and payment authorized. The register of claims is made as a part of these minutes.

Business:

1. **Finances** – Director Pitt proposed transferring \$200,000 from the Operating Fund to the Rainy-Day Fund. Mr. Gilmore moved to approve the transfer, seconded by Mr. Owen. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **Budget** - The 2026 budget was reviewed and having received no objections at the public hearing, a motion was made to adopt the budget resolution: \$2,561,650 for the Library Operating Fund (amount to be raised), \$38,000 for the Library Improvement Reserve Fund, and \$175,000 for the Rainy-Day Fund. On motion of Mr. Gilmore, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson, the Board unanimously adopted the 2026 budget. Form 4 with the tax rates and the Resolution on tax rates will be included in the Board minutes.
3. **Library Strategic Plan** - Director Pitt presented the library's current strategic plan and recent accomplishments, including an Indiana Historical Grant to digitize Chronicle photos focusing on Black History. She discussed the need for new goals for 2026, suggesting involvement of both the board and staff. Mrs. Wilk recommended focusing on digital citizenship and online safety, particularly for children, while also emphasizing programming for all ages and enhancing multilingual services. Director Pitt plans to present staff goals at the next board meeting and intends to engage a consultant in 2026 to develop a comprehensive 5-year strategic plan.

I. Director's Report

1. **Materials and Services:** Monthly Statistics will be presented at the meeting.
2. **Staff:** Jonie will be gone the month of September. I will be gone Oct 7-11.

3. **Conferences/Travel** – Kelsey and Gabe will attend IHS Grant Ceremony.

4. **Community Engagement:** Radio segment WBAT; MPL Happenings in the Chronicle Tribune; National Night Out, Hosted Wildcat Farms, Met w/Kayla (United Way), Attended Friends meeting, Economic Growth Council, Community Foundation (Love Where You Live), Weaver Family Pilgrimage, Hosted Nappanee Public Librarians, Courtyard Celebration, Delta Ahead Meeting, Taste of Marion.

5. **Grants:** The museum was awarded an IHS Grant through the Friends Group to contract an individual to assist with digitizing selected Chronicle photos. This project will enhance the Museum collection by focusing on Black history in Grant County and addressing gaps in the existing holdings.

6. **Children's/Youth (Tylanna)**

At the Library:

We offered two grab and go crafts during August, a crane ornament, and a kazoo.

Programs:

During the month of August, we offered 15 programs and served over 342 patrons.

Outreach:

We attended the Frances Slocum Back-to-school night on Monday, August 4. It was a great opportunity to meet families and encourage them to check out the library.

Storywalk:

The Storywalk book for the summer has been: *How to Find a Bird*. The next book will be: *Touch the Sky*. We have received a lot of positive feedback about the Storywalk in the park. Our families enjoy reading a story as they walk in the park.

Other:

We had a great turnout for the Courtyard Kickoff. We had a bubble wand craft and kids took their wands outside to dip into bubble solution and blow bubbles. We are ecstatic that this space allows families to play and connect.

The play area has been updated with a back-to-school theme. Kids can practice tying a shoe, counting, telling time, and more!

7. **Circulation (Michelle)**

Garfield Visitors

Visitors came from: Scotland, Canada, Arizona, Arkansas, Maryland, New York, and Iowa.

Online Library Card Applications

Library card applications are now available through the MPL website. Over 25 applications have been submitted so far. Patrons must visit the library within 30 days with a photo ID and proof of address to complete the process and receive their card. Thanks to Sheri and Kristen for making this possible!

Golden Ticket Promotion

Fifty golden tickets have been placed inside various library materials. Patrons who check out items containing a golden ticket may return the coupon for a prize, including a candy bar or a free book coupon.

Care Kits Distributed – 81

New Library Cards

- Adults: 74
- Children: 18

Recca Outreach Report (August 2025)

Center City Neighborhood Association Block Party: Attended the event featuring food (tacos), school supplies, music, and kid activities including a bubble machine, face painting, basketball, playground play, and information about the I Have A Dream Preschool Academy. Approximately 65 families visited the library table.

National Night Out: Attended with multiple neighborhoods represented. Activities included hotdogs and chips from firefighters, snow cones from a church group, police jumping gym, police dog demonstration, music, prizes, and informational tables. Maps of neighborhood resources were distributed. Approximately 50 families visited the library table.

September 2025

Planned outreach events:

- Kendall Elementary School Family Night
- Taste of Grant County at Matter Park
- Multilingual Family Night

8. Indiana History (Rhonda)

Genealogy Database

Our genealogy database now contains over **1 million records**.

Family History Conference

Flyers are available at all library desks, and the event has been promoted via the library listservs, social media, Wednesday Word, the Indiana Genealogical Society newsletter, and several area societies and libraries. Flyers were also mailed to area libraries and societies. Currently, **79 participants are registered**.

BookEye Scanner

Volunteer Ron Eddy is scanning blueprints of the library building for Paul. This will streamline locating the necessary blueprints.

Chronicle-Tribune Photos

- Volunteer Linda Sewell continues work on topic files and has indexed over **587 envelopes**.
- Indiana Room staff are organizing negatives from the 1950s–1970s as time allows; this phase is nearly complete.
- The Grant County Historical Society will host another work session on **September 17** to assist with the project.

CT Photo Digitization

Krystal has scanned over **2,500 Chronicle-Tribune photos** to date. The library still needs to determine **storage solutions** and establish a **management plan** to make the digital images accessible for public use.

9. Museum & Special Projects (Kelsey)

Carnegie Museum:

- Received and reviewed the **Architectural Conservation Assessment** for the Carnegie building; priorities were discussed by Kelsey, Rhonda, and Paul.
- **Outreach & Volunteer Engagement:** Kelsey and Gabe attended the Friends group meeting to share museum updates and request volunteer support for the Courtyard Kickoff. Gabe brought museum artifacts to showcase.
- **Courtyard Kickoff:** Hosted an interactive artifact table featuring items such as an early 1900s Marion-made toaster, stereoscope, coffee grinder, and 1970s MPL rotary phone. Event drew over **235 attendees** and was well-received across age groups.
- **Professional Collaboration:** Kelsey and Jaime visited the Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County to gather ideas for museum operations.
- **Exhibit Planning:** Kelsey and Gabe prepared the **Chronicle-Tribune display** in the Connector, on display through September.
- **Grant Award:** Selected to receive a **Heritage Preservation Grant** from the Indiana Historical Society. With matching funds from fundraising, this will provide **\$17,000** for storage needs and Black history research. **Torri McNair** will be contracted to assist with this project starting mid-September.

Jay House:

- Hosted **6 external meetings/events** and **2 library programs/meetings** in August, with total attendance of **68**.

PPS Grant:

- Courtyard Kickoff event planned by Kelsey was successful with **over 235 attendees**.
- **Final installations completed** in August, including the STEM feature, shade sail in the Children's Courtyard, and two additional benches in the larger courtyard. All elements of the grant project are now complete.

10. Networking (Paul)

- Installation of the **new security camera system** has begun.

- Office space established for **Ami in Tech Services**.
- An unused public computer in Reference was **reconfigured for staff use**.
- Workstation set up in the **museum office** for a special project.
- Ongoing **computer support** provided for patrons and staff.
- Miscellaneous IT tasks and updates completed as needed.

11. Properties (Roger)

- The lights in the connector/entry have been replaced, and I also cleaned all lenses and fixture exteriors. Additional cleaning in that area is planned.
- Following the connector updates, the next step will be replacing the lights on the 2nd floor.
- The Carnegie roofing project is progressing well and is expected to be completed within the next two weeks.
- Paul and I removed embedded metal landscape edging from the west-side “rocky” section in preparation for the SynLawn installation. The City’s tree crew has also removed the pine tree from that area.
- Asphalt crack sealing is underway to address damage from last winter and to help prevent further deterioration this coming winter.

12. Reference (Barb Enslen)

We began the month by hosting the Art Association’s annual members-only show, a community favorite. On August 6, we celebrated National Root Beer Float Day with patrons in the connector space—an event that brought smiles and nostalgic comments from many attendees.

Joanne led four sewing classes where participants made pillowcases; the program has grown so popular that we are exploring the purchase of two additional sewing machines to expand capacity. Sheri hosted 12 attendees at the monthly book discussion, while craft time drew 13 participants and the fiber craft program had three. Passive programs, including the puzzle table and adult coloring, continue to be enjoyed by patrons.

Our Courtyard Kickoff was a great success, with families of all ages decorating slap bracelets. These were also popular at the Taste of Marion event.

August displays featured topics such as Code Talkers, Lighthouses, Hiroshima, Canning, Video Games, Hobbies, World Photography, and Wildlife. The Code Talker display, in particular, drew significant feedback, as many patrons learned that more than 30 Native American tribes—not only the Navajo—participated in the program.

13. Technical Services (Kristen)

Ingram has been working nicely as an additional book vendor. A major personal win this week with Ingram is that I have gotten it set up to import directly from the cart into Horizon.

News just received today: Baker & Taylor is in the final stages of being acquired by ReaderLink. This could explain the issues that B&T has been experiencing.

Wowbrary is back to being posted weekly on Facebook and Instagram. This lets our patrons know about new materials each week.

14. Teens (Katie)

Number of Programs: 8

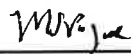
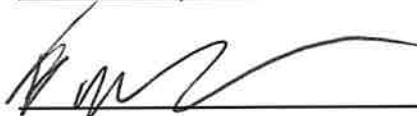
Total Number: 47

Now adding a Teen Lego Club. Starting in September on the second Friday – the one teen who would be interested is busy on Tuesday afternoons. Dates are still tentative, see how many we get on Fridays.

Open hours / Teen Lounge has dropped a bit, due to school starting (probably).

Proud Moment: The patron who won the Children's Museum pass came to thank me personally for the membership pass. She praised the Summer Reading prizes that we had and was extremely excited to win. Hoping that next year we can keep the Adult Summer Reading going with prizes that entice people to sign up and that I can come up with Teen's Summer Reading prizes that will get teens eager to join.

Adjournment/Next meeting: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Sumpter and seconded by Mr. Gilmore. The motion passed unanimously.

 _____	President	_____	Secretary
 _____	Member	 _____	Member
		 _____	
		 _____	