

November 21, 2023

The Marion Public Library Board of Trustees met Tuesday, November 21, 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, Mr. Lutton, Mr. Cline, and Ms. Sumpter. Jonie Riddle and Mary Eckerle were also present. Mrs. Pogue joined the meeting via zoom. There were no other viewers on zoom.

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

On motion of Mr. Cline, seconded by Ms. Ketcham, the minutes of the October 17, 2023, meeting was unanimously approved.

On motion of Mrs. Sumpter, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson, 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 \$3,854 657.98 in the Library Operating Fund as of October 31, 2023.

Business:

Policies: The Board Bylaws were presented for yearly review. On motion of Mrs. Nicholson, seconded by Mr. Cline, the Board unanimously approved the readoption of the Board Bylaws with a few minor corrections.

Board re-appointment: There has been no official notification from the Marion School Board on the appointment of a new Library board member.

Erate: Paul Burritt and Mary Eckerle are working with AdTec on the Erate filing information for 2024-25. Information item.

Director search: The Director search is being re-advertised with a new deadline of December 15. Cindy Ketcham, head of the Search committee for a new director, will invite one candidate for the director position to come to the library for an interview on December 18. The Board discussed the structure for this day, which will include a tour and an opportunity to meet with department heads. On motion of Mr. Lutton, seconded by Mr. Cline, the Board unanimously approved that the library would pay for the candidate's mileage on that day at the federal rate.

Jay House development: Staff, Board and Friends were invited to a Tea at the Jay House on November 8. The first rental will use the house for a family Christmas party on December 9.

General Motors Project for Public Spaces: A staff committee completed the initial application for this grant which is described at the end of these minutes. Board support is needed in case the grant application goes on to the second round of the process. On motion of Ms. Sumpter, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson, the Board gave strong support to continuing the grant application process.

Health Insurance for 2024: Insurance Management shopped various policies for consideration in 2024. On motion of Mr. Lutton, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson, the board approved the Anthem policy offered by Insurance Management for 2024.

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

Materials and Services: Statistics were presented at the meeting.

Staff: 1) Sidney James will join the Children's department as a new assistant; 2) There is an advertisement for a new Reference assistant to replace Shirley Mooney whose last day is November 20; and 3) Debbie Ruth, Indiana Room assistant gave notice of her retirement in mid-January.

Properties: 1) Roger Marx prepared the outside for colder weather. He worked in the Jay House cleaning and polishing the woodwork. He also replaced boards in Jay House and on the ramp leading up to it. In addition, there were furnace problems that he fixed; 2) Several events, including the Candidate Forum required set up; and 3) Currently, there are some internal building issues that he is working with Mary Eckerle to address.

Circulation: Garfield visitors continue to come and take pictures. The Garfield Trail is popular in Grant County.

Reference Services/Adult Programming: 1) October began with the Veteran's stand Down which MPL had a table at the YMCA with other community groups; 2) The Book Discussion group, led by Shari Sharlow, has consistent participation each month; 3) The monthly craft featured 3-D paper pumpkins as well as an extra program doing ghost paintings. In collaboration with the Indiana History department the museum, patrons took copies of vintage photos and added ghost, bats, skeletons, gravestones, and other items to turn each picture into a spooky masterpiece; 4) On October 28, Teresa Boucher presented a Bob Ross style painting workshop with eight attendees, Ms. Boucher donated her painting to the library; and 5) Displays for October featured the Eclipse, I Love Lucy, Frankenstein, Star Trek, Hispanic Heritage month, and the Middle East crisis.

Dr. Lori Goss-Reaves will talk about her book, *Kiss Lori for Me*, on Wednesday, December 13 at 5:30 pm in Meeting Room B.

Interlibrary Loan: This twice-weekly service, using a courier that picks up and delivers packages throughout the libraries in the state, is finally working better.

Indiana History and Genealogy: 1) The social media committee continues to be very active on Facebook and Instagram; 2) Update on the county records digitization project: Currently, 2,853 record books and probate files have been uploaded to Family Search.org; 3) Rhonda Stoffer and Collen Cramer have been in contact with Char Boyd about hosting a screening of the Wever-Pettiford documentary, "Rooted in Love, Lifted in Strength: The Pettiford-Weaver Story." Hopefully, it will be shown at MPL in February 2024 for Black History Month; and 4) Emily Morris and Bill Munn are working on a program with Diane Hunter from the Miami Nation of Oklahoma. No date has been set yet; d) The Indiana Room hosted a tour group of homeschool families. They visited the museum, Indiana Room, and the Children's department.

Technical Services: 1) Ordering has picked up this month. There were large orders of nonfiction, children's nonfiction, and VOX books; and 2) Battle of the Books was a success. This was MPL's 11th battle for 4th grade and the 6th battle for 5th grade. There were 225 students and spectators. Plans are to hold this event next year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Children's/Youth Services: 1) Tylanna Jones hosted a Children's and Teen Roundtable on Thursday, October 26. There were ten librarians in attendance. The group had discussions about many different topics and lots of ideas were shared. The Roundtable will meet again in March; 2) Battle of the Books 2023 was a success. The 4th grade winners were Riverview Elementary and Justice Middle School won the 5th grade slot; 3) The Grab & Go craft for October was a handprint tree; 4) There were 20 programs offered in October; and f) In October, Children's staff attended the Kendall Literacy Night and the YMCA Fall Health & Safety Festival. A group from 21st Century Scholars visited the library and museum.

Museum: 1) The History Center offered two tours to afterschool programs in October. The 21st Century Scholars group came as well as the Training Center. Children on the tour were introduced to the fossil history of Grant County and participated in an exercise which involved finding dates on the timeline. They also learned about the Gas Boom and the industrialization of Grant County and participated in a scavenger

hunt to learn about the history of Weaver; 2) Collen Cramer and Kelsey Winters visited Minnetrista in Muncie to meet with their museum staff and discuss plans for collaboration on a joint exhibit of the Ball Stores that were in Marion and Muncie. Early plans were made on the History Center's roles in creating the exhibit and there was discussion of how this exhibit will involve both Minnetrista and the History Center; 3) Bill Munn gave an informative Fireside Chat dealing with Ghost stories in Marion; 4) Met with Deb Geyer of the Quilters about an Anniversary exhibit; and 5) Worked with other staff on planning Christmas in the Carnegie.

The History Center at the Marion Public Library Presents Marie Webster: Influential Quilt Designer from Marion, Indiana. Deb Geyer, Executive Director of the Quilters Hall of Fame will present the program on Friday, December 1 at 5 pm in the Forrest Room.

Teen Department: 1) Madisyn Timmons, Teen Librarian, has noticed that more families with teens are spending time in the teen room and using computers lately, especially on e-learning days. She is thinking of some passive activities and displays to add in some engagement other than just computer time; 2) Dungeons & Dragons had a smaller attendance this month due to more and more conflicts. Teens are busy. Some new people have expressed interest in joining the next round; and c) Displays this month included Spooky Season reads.

Marketing: Mary Eckerle was on WBAT on November 2. The main topic was the upcoming Book Sale.

Staff Inservice: Mary Eckerle will present the Inservice agenda at the board meeting. The Inservice is scheduled for Thursday, November 30. The Library and History Center will be closed on that day.

No More Neutral: Marion Public Library is hosting a workshop on dealing with book challenges with Angela Hurst from NoveList on December 5. Several staff members will attend along with other library staff from around the state.

High School Interns: The student interns from the Marion Career Center continue to come twice a week. Josh Woods is at the Adult Reference desk and also in the Teen area and Jaden James is with Collen Cramer and Kelsey Winters in the museum.

WIFI: The WIFI in the Courtyard was turned back on from 8 pm to 7 am on November 1. One patron had passed along that he really needed to access the WIFI for a job search. Perhaps with the colder weather, there won't be people milling around after dark.

Friends Book Sale: The Friends Book Sale went well and made over \$1,000 in the first weekend. It will continue through November 25.

Discover Downtown: On Saturday, November 18, there will be two movies, crafts, and a storytime in the Children's department starting at 1 pm.

SOS: 1) Marion held its Oktoberfest at the Firestone in October and gathered a large crowd of people who attended. Drinks, Music, Games, Vendors, and a silent auction and raffle were all present at the event. An estimated 200+ people showed up; and 2) SOS Marion established the beginnings of a new Main Street Organization for downtown Marion. A board and officers were chosen, and the organization is working on its application with Main Street Indiana.

Community Outreach: 1) Recca Black, Michelle Morgan, Barbara Dixon, Kelsey Winters, Barbara Salveter, Collen Cramer, and Mary Eckerle represented the library at the Veteran event at the YMCA on October 6. It's always nice to go out into the community, especially to talk with the veterans; 2) MPL participated in the downtown Halloween trick or treat event. This was very popular. The only downside was that there were more trick or treaters than anticipated and the candy was depleted. The Children's department was very creative and passed out stickers and other non-candy treats; and 3) Staff, Board and Friends will volunteer at the Walkway of Lights on Sunday, November 19.

Appreciations: "The Grant County Veterans Service Office would like to thank you and your business for your part in the 12th annual Grant County Military Appreciation Week (MAW). The level of participation

by area businesses has exceeded our expectations and encompassed a vast array of services that are beneficial for all who are serving, have served, and their families.” Brad Hodson, Grant County Veteran Service Officer.

Adjournment/Next meeting: Tuesday, December 19, 2023.

_____ President _____ Secretary
_____ Member _____ Member

Each of you has a tie to General Motors in one way or another; well guess what – there is a MAJOR grant that is available for you! See at this website and below:

<https://www.pps.org/community-placemaking-grants>

“This fall, with generous support from **General Motors (GM)**, Project for Public Spaces will support five public space transformation projects that engage and improve the experience of underserved members of the community.

“The selected applicant will have the opportunity to work with local residents and partners to facilitate a placemaking process in collaboration with Project for Public Spaces that results in physical and programmatic improvements to the space.

” Applications are due by **Monday, November 13, 2023 at 11:59pm EST**. Grant recipients will be announced in January 2023, and grant activities will conclude by December 1, 2024.

“Each selected recipient will receive:

- **\$100,000** in funding for physical and programmatic improvements to a public space
- Design, research, community engagement, and implementation support from the Project for Public Spaces team
- Leadership development opportunities to meet and learn from fellow grantees and participate in Project for Public Spaces trainings and conferences”

Please read through the eligibility requirements on the website, but this is a FANTASTIC opportunity for some major grant dollars.

I hope you check it out and if you have any questions, please let me know!
Garrett



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