

July 15, 2025

The Marion Public Library Board of Trustees met Tuesday, July 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, Ms. Sumpter and Mr. Owen, and Mrs. Nicholson. Jonie Riddle, Business Manager and Jaime Pitt, Director were also in attendance. We also had special guests from Edward Jones presenting.

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

The minutes from the June 17, 2025, meeting was approved following a motion by Mrs. Nicholson, seconded by Ms. Sumpter. 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 \$4,065,679.74 in the Library Operating Fund as of June 30, 2025.

Business:

1. **Finances (Edward Jones Presentation):** Representatives from Edward Jones presented to the board regarding the portfolio of one of the Marion Public Library's gift funds. The fund originated from a donation of four stocks in the 1970s. Over time, these investments have grown substantially. The board was informed that the income generated from this fund is utilized to support the library's children's programming. No action was required at this time; the board expressed appreciation for the presentation and the ongoing support provided through this fund.
2. **Library Behavior Policy Review:** The Library Director presented the revised Behavior Policy, incorporating feedback from both staff and board members. Updates to the policy were outlined for the board's review. Mr. Connor moved to approve the revised Behavior Policy as presented. Mrs. Nicholson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Payment Resolution:** Director Jaime Pitt presented the Payment of Claims in Advance Resolution, following up on the previous discussion. She emphasized the importance of avoiding late fees and additional costs from delayed payments, while board members noted the need to maintain appropriate financial oversight. It was noted that this resolution reflects a long-standing practice of MPL and ensures alignment with State Board of Accounts requirements. Mrs. Nicholson moved to approve the resolution. Ms. Sumpter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Security Cameras:** Director Jaime Pitt reported that two quotes had been received from security companies for interior/exterior camera systems, with one company preferred for its superior cloud capabilities. She will present a revised

quote for the first phase of a staged implementation to be completed over a three-year period.

I. Director's Report

1. **Materials and Services:** Monthly Statistics will be presented at the meeting.
2. **Staff:** Kennedy Row joins the Children's Department as a part time employee.
3. **Conferences/Travel** – Jaime attended the ILF Budget Workshop.
4. **Community Engagement:** Radio segment WBAT; MPL Happenings in the Chronicle Tribune; St. Marin's Outreach; Boys & Girl Club; Second Harvest Event; Juneteenth Celebration.
5. **Grants:** We completed the IHS grant in collaboration with the Friends Group. We should hear in September whether they approved our application.

6. Children's/Youth (Tylanna)

At the Library:

In June, we offered two grab-and-go crafts: a paper rainbow craft and a bird feeder craft.

Programs:

We hosted 27 programs throughout June, serving over 1,055 patrons. Notable partnerships included NearSpace Education, the Garden Club of Marion, the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana, Services for the Visually and Hearing Impaired, and Love on a Leash.

Storytime will take a short break during the last two weeks of July.

The Big Blue Blocks from Wonderspace will be available in the activity room from Monday, July 28 through Saturday, August 2.

Summer Reading:

Summer Reading is going strong with over 1,000 participants so far. Patrons have until Saturday, July 26 to complete their reading and qualify for grand prizes.

7. Circulation (Michelle)

Garfield Visitors:

We welcomed visitors from across the country in June, including guests from Georgia, Wisconsin, Ohio, Illinois, Texas, Kentucky, Arizona, Colorado, and Missouri.

Adult Summer Reading:

The Adult Summer Reading Program is ongoing and continues to be well received by our patrons.

Account Cleanup Project:

Kristen compiled a list of patron accounts with old fees. Joanne and Natalie waived accounts with smaller balances, while I reviewed and waived most accounts with fees over 10 years old—some dating back as far as 2008. Kristen will now move forward with purging these outdated accounts from our Horizon database.

Community Donation:

Marion Health donated approximately 10 pairs of sunglasses, along with small bottles of sunscreen and ChapStick. Recca distributed these items to patrons as part of our ongoing care initiatives.

Care Kits Distributed: 61

New Library Cards Issued:

Adults: 53

Children: 31

Community Outreach:

In June, Recca from the Circulation Department visited St. Martin Community Center every Wednesday to encourage community members to visit the library. Each child completed two grab bag crafts: Cheerio bird feeders and rainbow hangers. Recca also enrolled 11 adults and 7 children in the Summer Reading Program.

In preparation for the Juneteenth holiday, Recca created a Juneteenth Trivia Scavenger Hunt that guided patrons through the library to find questions and answers. She designed flyers to promote local Juneteenth activities and assembled a themed display case in the Circulation Department. Recca also assisted with the Juneteenth movie event and represented the library at the Juneteenth Festival alongside Director Jaime Pitt. Together, they distributed over 50 free books to attendees.

Looking ahead to July, Recca will continue visiting St. Martin Community Center weekly to promote library services, register patrons for the Summer Reading Program, and lead craft activities. Additionally, she will be visiting the Boys & Girls Club to conduct a reading activity, as they are currently without bus transportation.

8. Indiana History (Rhonda)

Dr. Kersten Priest's program drew 25 attendees, including Weaver descendants—one from Maryland who discovered the event while researching in the Indiana Room.

Planning for the October Family History Conference is underway, with "Save the Date" posts active on social media.

The BookEye scanner supports 22 collections on Indiana Digital Memory ([link](#)). Volunteer Ron Eddy has scanned 10 Jail Registers for the Sheriff's Department.

Volunteer Linda Sewell continues organizing Chronicle-Tribune topic files. On June 18, the Grant County Historical Society organized 200+ loose photos and seven boxes of negatives; another work night is scheduled for September.

Paul installed a flatbed scanner in the Indiana Room workroom. Krystal has digitized 97 envelopes of Chronicle-Tribune photos as of July 9. Storage and management plans for digital images are pending.

9. Museum & Special Projects (Kelsey)

The Museum created custom coloring pages using photos from the History Center's collection to support the Summer Reading Program. These materials offered a creative way to engage younger patrons with local history.

Staff completed and submitted a Project Grant application to the Indiana Historical Society. The process required significant time and effort, and we expect to hear back by September.

The Indiana Room assisted in hosting a work session for Grant County Historical Society members to help organize Chronicle-Tribune photographs. This continues our ongoing collaboration to preserve and make accessible local historical resources.

Gabe attended the Rare Books & Manuscripts conference at Yale University, bringing back professional insights and best practices.

He also shared a collection story underscoring the importance of maintaining a consistent collection scope. A recent search for the term "White Sox" in our database returned three items: a 1990 White Sox game ticket, a 1998 baseball cap, and a 1959 photo of the Twin City Red Sox Little League team from Gas City. Of the three, only the photo has a meaningful connection to the history of Marion or Grant County—highlighting the need for careful curation.

At the Jay House, three external meetings and one library program were hosted in May, with a total attendance of 22.

Finally, under the PPS Grant, the courtyard is thriving—especially the plantings. In June, Kelsey placed orders for additional items, and Jaime worked to secure funding for new benches and turf installation.

10. Properties (Roger)

Elevator work is scheduled to begin on July 15. Roger is working with the contractors to determine how much of the basement will need to be blocked off, with the goal of minimizing disruption during the Quilters Celebration events.

He has also asked the roofing contractors to delay their work until at least July 22 to avoid overlapping with both the elevator repairs and the quilting activities. The roofers have agreed to provide a few days' notice before beginning. Coordinating these projects concurrently is a challenge, but Roger is working to ensure the process runs as smoothly as possible.

11. Reference (Barb Enslin)

Our sewing Makerspace is now up and running. In June, we hosted three sewing classes with a total of 16 participants. Patrons have expressed enthusiasm both

for future sewing classes and for the opportunity to use a sewing machine independently when needed. In addition to our new sewing offerings, we continued our regular programs, including the puzzle table and adult coloring pages.

Looking ahead to July, we will maintain our regular programming and offer additional sewing classes. We're also pleased to welcome local author Mark Saluke on July 19 for a book talk on *Lucy's Way: A Drunk, a Dog, and the Tao*. Mr. Saluke generously donated a copy of his book to the library.

Our June displays were vibrant and varied, featuring three themed displays for Juneteenth and three for Batman, as well as others highlighting Father's Day, yoga, animal rights, and more.

The Adult Summer Reading Program has also been a great success. Many adults have signed up to read alongside their children, and several completed the program by the end of June and claimed their prizes. Encouragingly, many participants continue to check out books and read beyond the required goals. Anna and Katie did an excellent job coordinating the program, ensuring it has run smoothly and effectively.

12. Technical Services (Kristen)

Donations have continued to come in at a steady pace, and Kristie has done an excellent job staying on top of organizing and processing them. I'm also beginning preparations for this year's Battle of the Books. Ami and I are working on finalizing a list of titles for coaches to review and vote on, with plans to send the list out by the end of July. The competition is scheduled to take place in November.

13. Teens (Katie)

Teen Services hosted 9 events in June, with a total attendance of 58. Attendance at some programs, including Anime Club, was lower this month due to summer break and family vacations. However, the Dungeons & Dragons group continues to grow, with two new teens joining in June.

A highlight this month: Adult Summer Reading participation has tripled compared to last year.

Looking ahead, the department plans to create more space in the teen area by relocating nonfiction titles that appeal to both teens and adults to the upstairs collection.

June displays included "Readbox Rentals," "First Book in a Series," and a Juneteenth-themed display.

Adjournment/Next meeting: Motion to adjourn the meeting until Tuesday, August 19, 2025, was made by Mr. Owen and seconded by Mrs. Nicholson.

Mr. Owen President  Secretary

Mr. Stull Member  Member