

March 18, 2025

The Marion Public Library Board of Trustees met Tuesday, March 18, 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, 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 February 18, 2024, meeting was approved following a motion by Mrs. Mathias, seconded by Mr. Gilmore. The motion passed unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Gilmore, seconded by Mr. Owen, 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 \$3,414,874.64 in the Library Operating Fund as of February 28, 2025.

Business:

Elevator: Director, Jaime Pitt, discussed the ongoing issue with the north elevator, which has been out of service since October 2024. Elevated provided a quote of around \$128,000 for the repair, but Marion expressed concerns about the unknown cost of debris removal and potential drilling. Mrs. Pitt also mentioned that the elevator contract with Elevated has not been signed since 2020, allowing them to explore other options for repair.

AARP Grant: Director, Jaime Pitt, discussed the library's application for a \$25,000 grant from AARP to complete finishing touches on the courtyard project. The grant application was submitted, and the library will know the outcome in May.

Liaison to Grant County Historical Society: Director, Jaime Pitt, recommended appointing Renee Bissell Cole as the library's liaison to the Grant County Historical Society, with the goal of enhancing collaboration and improving communication between the organizations. The motion was made by Mrs. Wilk, seconded by Mrs. Mathias, and passed unanimously.

Legislative Update: Director Jaime Pitt provided an update on recent legislative developments and highlighted the Indiana Library Federation's continued advocacy efforts on behalf of libraries. She referenced recent testimony delivered by Julie Windorff and the ILF's official statement regarding proposed property tax reform. Additionally, Mrs. Pitt, shared key data from the MPL Year in Review, noting 139,000 visits to the Library and History Center and a total of 14,000 library card holders—representing more than half of the constituency.

I. Director's Report

- Tom Brown on 17 Freedom Riders aided by the Baldwins in Grant County
 - Dr. Kersten Priest on Jamestown, NC's connection to the Weaver community
- *Chronicle-Tribune* Photo Archive: Sorting ongoing with the Grant County Historical Society assisting during their March 19 meeting. Focus narrowed to local photos for digitization.

8. Museum (Kelsey)

- Attended BookEye scanner training—will support digitization efforts.
- Two traveling exhibits from the Indiana Historical Society scheduled (April and September).
- Collaboration with the Grant County Historical Society on organizing *Chronicle-Tribune* images continues with regular work sessions.
- *Freedom Stories* program with Bill Munn was held on Feb. 27—highlighted the lives of two formerly enslaved women who settled in Grant County.
- Collections Committee met: 6 items accessioned, 4 deaccessioned.
- Collecting Plan policy approved by the board to guide future acquisitions.
- Three new potential donations received.
- Volunteers needed—interested individuals should contact Kelsey.

Jay House:

- Hosted two meetings, two rentals, and one MPL program in February.

PPS Grant:

- Planning flower bed design with Project for Public Spaces.
- Two courtyard project bids received—work expected to start mid-March.

9. Networking

- Continued mitigation efforts in response to cyberattacks on the phone system and Horizon.
- New computers installed for Rhonda and Kelsey, with docking station for Kelsey.
- Ordered external hard drives for Indiana Room and Museum Office to back up scanner files.
- Participated in Courtyard project meetings.
- Added 10 new charging stations on the second floor.
- Provided tech assistance to patrons and staff.

10. Properties

- Progress continues on Digital Scanner Center, though at a slower pace due to other projects.
- Courtyard Project: Invitations to Bid were sent; two bids received and pending board approval.
- Seasonal water connection on the building's west side was reconfigured in preparation for the project.
- Bragg Excavating scheduled to begin concrete terrace repairs soon.

11. Reference Services (Barb Enslen)

- Hosted a successful staff soup day fundraiser for the staff fund.

Comm. R
humatray