

## **February 17, 2026**

The Marion Public Library Board of Trustees met Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the second floor Library Program Room of the Marion Public Library. Present were Mrs. Pogue, Mrs. Nicholson, Mrs. Wilk, Mr. Gilmore, Ms. Sumpter, Mr. Owen and Mrs. Mathias (via Zoom). 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 January 20, 2026, meeting were approved following a motion by Ms. Sumpter, seconded by Mrs. Wilk. The motion carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mrs. Nicholson, seconded by Ms. Sumpter, 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 \$3,984,209.73 in the Library Operating Fund as of January 31, 2026.

### **Business:**

**Lark's Song Collaboration:** Guest Megan Gilmore from Lark's Song was present. The Director and Ms. Gilmore presented a proposed collaboration between the Marion Public Library and Lark's Song, including a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining the terms of the partnership.

Board members discussed the proposal and asked several questions. The Board requested that the MOU be reviewed by legal counsel. Concerns were also raised regarding the potential financial impact, particularly related to possible increases in operational costs associated with the Jay House.

The Board directed the Director to consult with legal counsel and gather additional information regarding the proposal and its financial implications. The Director will report back to the Board at a special meeting.

**Computer Use/Internet Policy:** The Director presented the Computer Use/Internet Policy to the Board for review. Board members asked whether staff had any suggested revisions. The Director informed the Board that the Network Manager will review the policy and provide any recommendations. The policy will be brought back to the Board at the March meeting for consideration and approval.

**Legislative Update:** The Director provided a legislative update, noting that the legislative session is moving quickly, with bills being introduced, amended, and changed frequently.

The Indiana Library Federation (ILF) is actively advocating on behalf of libraries, along with representatives from Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP. Bills containing language affecting libraries are currently being amended, and there is hope that appropriate guardrails will be put in place as the legislative process continues.

I. Director's Report

1. **Staff:** The Director held individual evaluation meetings with all full-time staff.

2. **Conferences/Travel** – None in February.

3. **Community Engagement:** MPL Happenings in the Chronicle Tribune; Lark's Song Meeting; Radio Segment; Training Center Advisory; Rotary Club Presentation; IWU Tour of Museum/Collaboration Project; SOS Meeting; Quilters Meeting; PBS Collaboration; Northwest Bank Volunteers; Historic Marion.

4. **Grants:** Applied for Dollar General Literacy Grant

5. **Special Library Programs (Upcoming):**

- PBS Documentary
- Black History Month Events

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

In January, the Children's Department offered a Mitten-themed Grab & Go craft. We planned 21 programs during the month, with 3 canceled due to weather, serving over 368 patrons. Winter Reading Bingo continues through February 14, with children able to earn up to three prizes for completing bingos.

7. **Circulation (Michelle)**

In January, Garfield saw fewer visitors due to weather, though we welcomed guests from Warsaw, Poland, and Rushville, Missouri. Chair Yoga remains popular, with 20–25 participants each week. Recca did not travel in January due to harsh weather but plans to visit the Real Community Church Family Resource and Justice Intermediate School for Family Day in February.

**New Library Cards:**

**Adults: 67**

**Children: 4**

**Care Kits - 47**

8. **Indiana History (Rhonda)**

The Social Media Committee remains very active on Facebook and Instagram; staff are encouraged to share items for promotion. In January, I surveyed certified staff

for LEU updates and submitted the results to Jaime—thank you to everyone for keeping track of your LEUs. Krystal has scanned over 4,400 Chronicle-Tribune photos, completing three boxes and currently working on the fourth, while we continue exploring ways to make the photos publicly accessible beyond Indiana Digital Memory. Paul has approved storing digitized items on the server again, allowing us to move all 14,088 images—organized in 772 folders totaling 311 GB—to the new space, and scanning directly to the server will now save significant time.

#### **9. Museum & Special Projects (Kelsey)**

In January, major projects included Torri and Gabe completing most of the chronological organization of Chronicle negatives from the 1950s–1970s, with several miscellaneous boxes still requiring work. Kelsey and Gabe hosted a class of IWU Education students, who evaluated the museum tour and began providing feedback to better accommodate elementary students, while also starting the History Boxes project for the semester. A PBS *Now Entering* crew filmed B-roll footage in the museum and library. No programs or external presentations were held during the month, though Kelsey worked on February program planning. Collections updates included the acceptance of six donations, such as a nurse's uniform, a 1927 Van Buren Honor Roll, and a 1914 Matters Park postcard, while 187 items—primarily textiles and stationery—were marked for deaccession. Volunteers contributed 20 hours, with Linda assisting in inventories and organizing negatives lacking envelope information. At the Jay House, three external meetings/events and one library program were hosted, with one tour provided by Kelsey, totaling 56 attendees.

#### **10. Networking (Paul)**

In January, work focused on improving IT and maintenance processes, including developing a Maintenance Request Form, an IT request form, and implementing DUO multi-factor authentication for all staff. A Microsoft Office 365 outage occurred on January 21. Routine IT tasks included changing the phone announcement to the AARP message, replacing a stuck keyboard on Computer 9, and providing computer assistance to patrons and staff. Staff also completed multiple cybersecurity webinars and a two-hour CyberTrack F4 session, while ongoing collaboration with EdgelT addressed multi-factor authentication, firewall, and network issues.

#### **11. Properties (Roger)**

On January 30, Orkin completed our initial pest treatment and will return monthly; it's worth noting that no reports of roaches or other insects were received in the kitchen for 2–3 weeks prior, though one roach was found in returned materials. The Returned Materials Heat Treatment Enclosure (aka Baker Box) has lost efficiency

due to age and heavy use, and a failed zipper has allowed heat to escape, enabling some pests to survive treatment. I am building a new enclosure inside the existing unit to improve efficiency and durability, with some temporary downtime—until the project is complete, carts should be placed near, but not inside, the unit, and I will manage items in and out. Fluorescent light replacements are underway, new clerestory fixtures have arrived for installation, and Kevin Kirk will begin interior painting this week into next. Lastly, we continue to manage snow and cold conditions as we look forward to spring.

#### **12. Reference (Barb Enslenz)**

Although January was slower than usual due to the weather, key programs continued as scheduled. Sheri hosted book club, and I led craft, fiber craft, and Craft Time for Carey Services. The Bob Ross–style painting program was rescheduled for April 11. Sheri also created desktop links for tax forms to simplify printing for patrons, developed flyers for AARP tax assistance, and updated the library website. She implemented a highly successful pop-up button, which encouraged library card sign-ups and can be repurposed for future promotions. January displays covered a variety of topics, including dragons, penguins, snowmen, Legos, MLK Jr., languages, hot tea, and vacation planning. Passive programs included the puzzle table and adult coloring sheets, and Anna and Aurora continued cross-training in other departments.

#### **13. Technical Services (Kristen)**

Ordering has been progressing smoothly, with only occasional questions from acquisitions staff, and overall, everyone is becoming comfortable with the process. Weeding of the 700s has begun and is expected to be completed before the upcoming book sale. Additionally, a mending ticket system has been created for the children's department to ensure each returned book receives the appropriate repairs.

#### **14. Teens (Katie)**

Teen Services offered a variety of programs in January, with 11 programs reaching a total of 101 participants. Highlighted events included *Hot Chocolate & Chill* and Teen Book Club, each with 14 attendees, while Dungeons & Dragons drew 5 participants. Other recurring programs, Anime Club, Teen Art Group, LEGO Club, and Open Hours, continued to provide consistent engagement, though one D&D session was canceled due to weather. Winter Reading Bingo concluded early in the month, with 10 teens completing the challenge, surpassing last year's numbers.

The Teen Lounge recorded 50 independent visits, and notable engagement included two regular teens attending multiple programs, including Anime Club. January book displays featured *Manga: New Year – Adventure Awaits*; *New Year, New Books*, and *Just a Bit of Slice of Life*.

**Adjournment/Next meeting:** The meeting adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Gilmore, seconded by Ms. Sumpter. The motion carried unanimously. The next regular board meeting will be Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 5:30 pm.

Mitzy \_\_\_\_\_ President Rick Sumpter \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary

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Stephanie M. Nicholas  
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