

MINUTES
MarLA Board Meeting
December 21, 2020
(via Zoom)
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Beth Honetschlager, Lorelee di Lorenzo, Jim Maher, Christine Maefsky, Tom Omdahl, Elaine Larson, Jan Hunton, Lynn Bjorkman, Max Smitten, Annie Minnich, Ruth Ann Willius

Members Absent: Juanita Schodde

Also in attendance: Gwen Springsteen Roden

1. Welcome and Call to Order – Jim
2. Secretary's Report – Christine
 - Review and Accept Draft Minutes from 10/19/20 Meeting
 - Minutes Approved
3. Treasurer's Update – Lynn
 - Budget report and financial balance
 - Fundraiser money has been coming in
 - Jordan Bequest money will be coming; we think in January but have not been notified of timing this year
 - Budget vs Actuals
 - i. Library remodel
 - ii. Large construction costs on the library remodel have all been paid
 - iii. Website expenses over budget were all approved as part of the redesign.
 - iv. The budget is however in good shape
4. Library Redesign Task Force update/volunteer call – Jan

- Update on final project steps
 - i. The list of things to be done is about the same as two months ago
 - ii. There is a problem with the locker controls that Washington County Library is working on taking care of
 - iii. Window blinds are still in the works; will be done after the holidays
 - iv. The cables still need to be covered over; Jeff Black, Jan and Tom will work on these after the holidays
 - v. All electrical is done
 - vi. Tammy is on board to handle the artwork displays again and is working to get some up before the birthday celebration video
 - vii. Sue Knapp is working on signage. She has been prioritizing the website work
 - viii. We do need input on final cleanup of stuff left over from before: e.g. old CD rack, original stand for the Craig Blacklock book; ottoman; printers and other electronics no longer needed; stuff in the back closet; Jim suggested perhaps putting things on the Marine Booster Buy/Sell/Trade page
 - ix. Celia Worth, our internet restoration support person helped a lot with the internet work, taking care of ongoing issues we've been having; she did not want to charge us, but Lorelee would like for us to give her an honorarium for her time (probably 35 + hours).
 - x. It was agreed to give Celia an honorarium of \$500 for the work she's done getting us going this time.
 - xi. We are Frontier (not Midco) and the Woodbury Library has been paying for us so we'll stay Frontier.
 - xii. Lorelee will ask her if we can give Celia an annual retainer going forward so she can keep up with things that need to be done regarding our tech services.
 - xiii. Lorelee says Celia is exactly the kind of tech person we need, one who is willing to take on a challenge and see it through rather than passing it on to us. She has been working with us for maybe 7 years. Lorelee will talk with her to see how she sees her possible role of support for us including an estimate of the amount of time she thinks might be needed.
 - xiv. A video tour of the library for the annual birthday party is being considered by the Programs Committee

5. Website Redesign Update – Elaine

- i. The launch of the website was delayed; it is now planned for around January 15th, before the birthday party
- ii. The communications group will get together to finalize the content
- iii. Have switched over to the new email addresses
- iv. Lynn created a PayPal account we can use for donations
- v. Jim Dimmers got a spam email from us; click bait. No one else has reported any however, so we're not sure if it is our problem or perhaps a problem on his end
- vi. Talked about ways to highlight art in the Library – perhaps put in the News section of the website when new art is added
- vii. The question of our previous quarterly newsletter was brought up; now the news is sent through mail chimp; may bring it up again
- viii. Ruth asked that the Communications Committee take a second look at the newsletter and recommend a formal decision about whether or not to have one
- ix. It will be a lot easier to update the newsletter on the website now; multiple people can actually do it

6. Committee Reports (just a few select committees here)

- Operations – Lorelee
 - i. Discuss ongoing library services to public
 - ii. Saturday usage has picked up; the article in the Country Messenger helped stir interest; almost too many last Saturday; filling the volunteer shifts has not been an issue
- Adult Programming - Jim
 - i. 160 people came for Ed Fleming session; a big jump over our first attempt at an online presentation
 - ii. Upcoming schedule – Jan. 21 birthday Party
 - iii. They are looking at a few different things for February and March
 - iv. River Radio –
 1. Will come back in mid-January
 2. Would like to get it in Pod Cast form

3. Numbers had been dwindling but this last week was high (Osterholm and Max Smitten were the draws)
- Children's Programming - Ruth
 - i. Refund of summer 2020 program fees
 1. No family has yet received a refund from Brown Paper Tickets; they are being sued across the country; they owe over \$6 million
 2. Ruth has moved that the Library refund parents; we should let them know that it is the Library giving them the refund just in case they do eventually receive money from Brown Paper Tickets they could give that extra payment as a donation to the Library; motion passed unanimously.
 3. Ruth will give Lynn the names and amounts of money each; paid; Lynn will send the refund
 4. How do we get more families/kids to request books from the Library – Ruth suggested we create bags of like themed books to offer parents. They can suggest ideas for themes ahead of time if they wish.
 5. How to get the word about the theme book bags out – Country Messenger, Grove, Scandia Elementary, pre-schools
 6. Would like new members for the committee
 7. Planning for next summer's programs/camps – Ruth will connect with last year's presenters to see about their interest in doing it this summer if we are able
 8. In February we will revisit where the pandemic situation is and whether or not it will be possible to have the camps
 - Collections – Beth
 1. Got 100 new books; about 65 are Adult books and 35 teen and children books; mostly fiction but other as well; audio books included
 - Communications - Loralee
 - i. Column for Country Messenger
 1. Got one article in the paper a week or so ago
 2. Trying to get an article in the paper ever couple of weeks
 3. Ruth can plan to do one about the children's book bags

- Fundraising – Jim

- i. Annual campaign update

- 1. Pleased with the response so far - \$8,345 as of last Thursday; and more has come in.

- 7. Board Succession – Loralee and Jim

- Tonight's is the last full meeting for Loralee, Tom and Ruth whose terms have expired
- Geographic diversity, gender diversity, age diversity are important to consider when looking for new Board members
- Names being considered: Mary Burke, Kathy Ferrin, Laurie Schmidt, Kevin Shields, Peter Reich, Mary Hooley, Megan Lapos, Debora Smith
- Jim and Loralee will talk to these people about their interest in being on the Board; their interest may determine who is invited.

- 8. Other Business

- Ninth Birthday party ideas – via Zoom
 - i. Tout the website
 - ii. Show off the new space via video
 - iii. Maybe cupcakes from General Store, wrapped and put to be picked up in front of the Library; hard to do safely though

- 9. Next Board Meeting – February 15, 2021

- 10. Meeting adjourned – 8:26 p.m.