

MINUTES
MarLA Board Meeting
February 15, 2021
(via Zoom)
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Beth Honetschlager, Jim Maher, Christine Maefsky, Elaine Larson, Jan Hunton, Lynn Bjorkman, Max Smitten, Annie Minnich, Juanita Ikuta, Debra Smith, Mary Burke

Members Absent: Laurie Schmidt

Also in attendance: Gwen Springsteen Roden, Lorelee di Lorenzo, Tom Omdahl, Ruth Ann Willius

1. Welcome and Call to Order – Jim

2. Installation of new Board members:

- Mary Burke – 2nd round as a Marine library board member; also now serves on Washington County Library Board
- Debra Smith – long history of library work; went to library school; was a middle school librarian; then a young adult librarian; then head of children’s department in a public library; got MA in children’s literature; loves talking to people about books; has served on the Marine Library Children’s Committee.
- Laurie Schmidt –
- Motion by Lorelee; seconded by Elaine; unanimously approved

3. Election of Officers:

- Chair – Jim
- Treasurer – Lynn
- Secretary – Christine
- Vice – Chair – Beth
- Motion by Jan; second by Mary; unanimously passed

4. Secretary's Report – Christine

- Review and Accept Draft Minutes from 12/21/20 Meeting
- December Minutes unanimously approved

5. Treasurer's Update – Lynn

- Motion made by Lynn to file 2020 Charitable Org. Annual Report with MN; motion passed unanimously
- The Library's submission to Wash. Co. for COVID19 small business relief was turned down
- Contributions that come in are often accompanied by notes of thanks.
- Have made final payments on web redesign and followed up on honorarium to Celia Wirth; up to \$1,000 per year retainer
- Did send refunds to summer children's camp people; those refunds that have not been cashed in the next few months will be taken as donations
- Donations for the year – the annual campaign raised over \$13,000; \$450 of that was earmarked for River Radio
- Question – how will decisions about the money earmarked for River Radio be made; will River Radio be able to make decisions without coming to the Board?
- Lynn will make a line item for River Radio under Adult Programming. They can then spend the money directly; the \$450 will be added to their budget
- Is there transparency to donors as to how the money is being allocated and spent? Lynn responded there is a very general tax filing that Steve Suby does. It is a simple design: money is going into programming versus salaries but there is not a designation of what programs individual donations actually support.
- Lynn is working at regularly updating budget on One Drive for data security reasons
- Budget shows expenses staying about the same except for website which has an increase
- Motion made by Lynn to accept the proposed 2021 Budget; motion passed unanimously

6. Library Redesign Task Force update – Jan

- There a few items left to do; if we get a firm date of when to reopen those things will be done.
- Sue Knapp is ready to begin the new signs; Jan will work with her directly.

7. Website Redesign Update – Elaine and Juanita

- January 19th was the launch of the new website; it went smoothly
- Elaine has done the heavy lifting in implementing the ideas that Juanita, Jim and Bjorn have been proposing
- Enhancements to potentially come – Juanita
 - i. virtual browsing (check out Pepperdine University and how they do it) – people could look at our bookshelves;
 - ii. page dedicated to volunteers that would provide those volunteers current updates
 - iii. using pop ups to solicit email information to expand our data base
 - iv. Jim – might want to make the Donate Button more prominent

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

- Operations – Jim & Lorelee
 - i. Discuss potential reopening of the Library
 1. Washington County Library is getting so overloaded with requests for books for the Marine Library; it would help if the Library were open so they could deliver books that way
 2. Lorelee sent a survey out to volunteers but missed some newer volunteers so the numbers responding might not reflect the actual numbers ready to volunteer
 3. March 15th we would have at least 13 volunteers ready to volunteer; another 25 said they would volunteer as soon as they are vaccinated.
 4. Seems we will be able to open for 3 days a week
 5. But, questions; do we allow browsing? How do we work with Washington County?
 6. What are people's thoughts? Do we put restrictions on who works there? Will only vaccinated people be able to work? Lorelee felt we could not ask volunteers about their vaccinations

for privacy reasons. Just ask people if they are comfortable working.

7. We would have COVID Plan
 8. Numbers ordering books on Saturdays has remained about the same; not overwhelming
 9. Operations Committee should work out the details; we would continue the curbside pickups on Saturday.
 - ii. Key/door situation – we've been using Suzanne's key; no longer any spare key. Our Forest Lake person has a key that we will take back. We will ask Washington County for a couple more keys that they said they would provide.
- Adult Programming –
 1. Upcoming schedule
 - a. Terry Mistalski talking about COVID 19 and viruses
 - b. Diane Wilson novelist – the third Thursday in April
 2. River Radio
 - a. Podcast is up and running; embedded in the Library page
 3. Land Acknowledgement Statement
 - a. A subgroup of the program committee headed by Mary Hooley drew up a statement to be read before programs
 - b. Group is working on getting Native people involved in drafting a final statement. It is a work in progress.
 - c. The ideas for this started in Canada – has mixed reviews; some Native people are actually offended by such statements
 - d. People promoting it believe when we think history, we are overwhelming talking about European history; if we do such a statement as this, we need to put it together with a great deal of sensitivity and Native American input
 - e. May have something to recommend at our next meeting.
 - Children's Programming - Ruth
 1. Update on book bags program

- a. Filled 18 plus bags in the last week; had requests for young adult books too; was very popular and appreciated
 - b. When the library opens we will keep curbside pickup so the book bags could still be offered
2. Planning for next summer's programs
- a. When will we be able to say we will do the summer program?
 - b. Still so much uncertainty; may need to wait for our next meeting.
 - c. Y camps and even other overnight camps have been scheduling
 - d. What about River Readers? Last year we gave businesses money. Consensus was to do the same this year, and to have the program as we did last year.
 - e. Will have a special Board meeting March 15 to discuss whether or not we should have summer camp
- Collections –
 - i. Have added new paper books and audio books
 - Communications – Elaine
 - i. One thing – thinking about a newsletter; but will perhaps do it differently as we've done before and looking at social media ways of imparting library news
 - ii. Also asking Suzanne Lindgren if she might want to be part of the committee
 - iii. Committee is always looking for new members
 - iv. We can see how many people are clicking on the website. Highest has been 235 people in one day
 - Fundraising – Jim
 1. Potential for a fundraising event this coming fall
 - a. Committee is planning to talk about what we might do and what other groups are doing
 2. Oscar night online party?? - Paul Creager:

- a. Magnolia Pictures can provide the shorts; and provide an online viewing platform; they are exploring how they can do a live (not in person) viewing for us.
- b. The fundraising would be charging for the access code
- c. Don't think there is a limit on the number of people viewing
- d. Paul thought about small bottles of champagne delivered to homes; or ask people to buy champagne and have their glasses ready for clinking; some way of partially recreating the party feel of our regular Oscar Nights
- e. Oscars are April 25th; April 24th would then be Marine Library's Oscar Night
- f. Film Society would work with the Fundraising folks to work out the details
- g. We could do voting online – much like the River Radio surveys

9. Other Business

- We will now be doing only quarterly reports to the Marine Council

10. Special Board Meeting March 15th

11. Next Regular Board Meeting – April 19, 2021

12. Meeting adjourned – 9:03 p.m.