

**Minutes**  
**MarLA Board Meeting**  
**August 16, 2021**  
**(Our first in person meeting of 2021)**  
**6:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Beth Honetschlager, Jim Maher, Christine Maefsky, Elaine Larson, Lynn Bjorkman, Jan Hunton, Max Smitten, Laurie Schmidt, Mary Burke, Annie Minnich,  
Members Absent: Juanita Ikuta, Debra Smith,  
Also in attendance: Gwen Springsteen, Ruth Willius

Agenda

- Welcome and Call to Order - Jim
- Reading of Land Acknowledgement Statement

Secretary's Report – Christine

June draft minutes approved unanimously

Treasurer's Update – Lynn

•• Motion to move \$30,000 from the current checking balance into CDs of Edward Jones or Security State Bank of Marine depending on their rates. Lynn moved and Jan seconded. Reason is to get us a better interest rate on some of our funds.

••Motion passed unanimously

- Review of budget and financial position

••The library remodel went slightly over budget but the changes made were quality that will serve us for a long time

•• children's programming also went slightly over budget; what occurred will help inform us as to choices to make going forward

•• by end of September would like to have a designated person (Budget Coordinator) named for each committee for their budget needs for 2022

- named tonight: Jim (Adult Programming), Mary (Physical Operations), Elaine (Communications), Ruth (Childrens),

- Jordan Bequest update

- Jim will bring this up at City Council for the \$6,000 each year

- Jim and committee will work on finding out how Washington County Library is making decisions about their use of the Jordan Bequest funds;

- ask how much is left, how much is interest designating – a full report for the future; there is a list of things we want covered

### Library Redesign Task Force Update – Jan

- Jim ordered blinds for front window and the first side window; might need for other windows, especially the back window to keep the sun off of the back computer; will bring this us again

- took down one row of books in front and a few other minor changes

### Committee Reports

- Children's Programing

- Update from Ruth Willius

- Summer Camp –

- should we do it by lottery – it was generally agreed to do this

- should we increase fee

- should we add camps?

- can presenters do morning and afternoon?

- can we play with schedule changes for some sessions?

- Reading Incentive Program

- same families tend to be the ones reading and submitting reports

- how do we increase the numbers

- Blanket Bingo

- we've had three; 12 families at the first and second, five families at the last
- since this does not have a real library connection , should we be sponsoring it; perhaps have books as prizes
- also, Megan says this costs \$100 a time for the prizes
- story times went well with varying numbers attending each time
- Ruth would like us to have a column in the Country Messenger; we would not have to have one every week; Max has volunteered to write the first column; Laurie would like to write something about Land Acknowledgement
- Physical Operations – Mary Burke
  - Computer for patrons – has not done anything yet about getting a new laptop; she will continue her research
  - new volunteers but the challenge is that since there is only one volunteer at a time, new volunteers do not have the experience to take that on.
  - curbside pickup is still technically available although no one has requested it
  - Books for sale – Jim
    - giving selling books in the library a try; started last Saturday morning
    - Mary will ask Sue Knapp to make signs indicating books for sale and prices
  - Masks in the Library – Washington County is now requiring masks for all volunteers and patrons (vaccinated and unvaccinated); we have decided to do the same
  - We will work to improve the high speed internet at the library; may change from Frontier to Midco, tap onto the City account if it is possible; Jim will bring this up to Lynnette; however, having our own Midco connection might be better as it will not then slow down the city's
  - A motion was made and passed authorizing the Operations Committee to pay for a change in telephone and internet provider if they decide these are warranted – Beth moved, Laurie seconded
  - Jan is working at updating the digital version of the Volunteer handbook

- Laurie is wondering about opening the windows in the library; they are hard to open; Jim is working on this

- Adult Programming - Jim

- Fall programs + protocols

- September 16 is the first program of the fall; Jane Carroll – Daybreak Woman will be done at Burriss Park

- Doc night will have their first film at Burriss Park on September 23rd

- River Radio returns – will resume September 11<sup>th</sup>, every other week again

- may use a form of land acknowledgement statement at the beginning of their broadcasts, like Krista Tippitt “On Being” on NPR – “This show is produced on Dakota Land”.

- Collections - Beth

- new books are being added

- Communications - Elaine

- Anne Reich has resigned from the Committee

- there is a Land Acknowledgement page on the website

- will send Mail Chimps out to update people on new things happening to direct them to the website

- Molly Sanders suggested setting up a Google Calendar connection; she has had several ideas

- Fundraising - Jim

- Plans for fall fundraising campaign – Mary will get the fundraising committee together to plan

- Hugh J. Andersen foundation grant Mary

- Mary will follow up with Lorelee on applying for the grant; we usually get \$1,000

- Land Acknowledgement Group – Laurie

- group brainstormed about future possibilities

- two related cool things happening – 1. offering from Tweed Museum at UMD – Utube offering an interview from a part Danish/part Anishanabe man and his paintings that depict how the immigrant and Native people connect

- 2. (The Big Read) - Minnesota Book Club – One Read - Murder on the Red River by Marcie Rendon, a Native author, a murder mystery, that can be downloaded for free and then will have an online discussion

- Laurie proposed that we should promote outside events that support what we want to do, in range of our mission – beyond just books and reading – such as the two above; but, we need to decide which things fit our mission

- It was decided to promote (MN Book Club One Read) which seems more in line with our mission but not, at this time UMD Tweed Museum Event. We will put the former on the website or do a Mail Chimp,

- Art Update – Jim

- Now that regular library hours seem more certain, Tammy is working on the next show

### Other Business

- Max is leaving for a bike sojourn. He is thinking about how he will stay connected to the library.

- he is also thinking about who might replace him as a youth representative to the Board

- Laurie recounted problems the Library sponsored book club Judd Street Readers encountered on their way to Kitsi's house for their last meeting.

- There was a question about how we measure our services (patronage, collection, requests, etc.) - Jim

- we do track books going out and we track donations

- Recruiting of Board Members

- think about potential new Board members

- Gwen is doing a three-legged race at the Soiree – we will donate books as prizes

- Next board meeting (October 18, 2021)

- Adjourn 8:35 p.m.