

**Minutes**  
**MarLA Board Meeting**  
**October 18, 2021**  
**(via ZOOM)**  
**7:00 p.m.**

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

Members Absent: Lynn Bjorkman

Also in attendance: Gwen Springsteen

Agenda

- **Welcome and Call to Order** - Jim
  
- **Reading of Land Acknowledgement Statement** - Jim
  
- **Secretary's Report** - Christine
  - Minutes of August meeting were presented
  - Laurie motioned, Mary seconded; minutes were unanimously approved
  
- **Treasurer's Update**
  - Already have received donations for annual fundraising; we're already over \$5,000
  - Final bills on remodeling were approved
  - Volunteer recognition was over budget but the amount was previously approved by Board
  - Lynn sent out financial documents for the Board's review
  - Lynn also sent out documents related to Budget planning - she will be looking for feedback from the various committees.

Chairs should provide that feedback by the beginning of December so Lynn can have a draft of the next budget to present at our December Board meeting.

- Film society has had two events and their amount has been deducted from their balance

- The Film Society got their grant for \$7,000 two years ago; because of Covid, we've been able to use the money this year.

- Gayle pays the filmmaker \$300 for the showing of their film and for appearing at its showing

- Jordan Bequest update - The Council did approve that the County give us the \$6,000 for the year; we should get before the end of the year.

- **Library Redesign Task Force Update (THIS IS THE FINAL ONE)**

- Jim

- We got the blinds for the other windows; Bill Smitten installed them; when Max comes back from his travels, the remote will be installed

- **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Operations** - Mary, Juanita and Jan

- Have been doing ZOOM training sessions for volunteers; they've been successful

- Want to put a section on the web page dedicated just to Volunteers; Elaine is designing it; will be password protected so it is just for Volunteers

- new laptop has been ordered and will be delivered soon

- Volunteer Recognition - a four box of chocolates for each

volunteer will be at the Chocolate Shop for them to pick up.

- We are changing over from Frontier to Midco cable
- working on online repository for all our library documents to

be archived; to store and encrypt data sensitive information

- starting a puzzles exchange
- Do we need a sign on our door? Lorelee is looking into it;

people walk right by the door when its closed and don't realize what it is

- **Adult Programming - Jim**

- Had one program in the park in September; about 30-40 people

- Another program scheduled on November 18th (Whitney Moore talking about what we can learn from Scandinavian lifestyle)

- still working on scheduling events for January and February

- Last Doc night was done indoors

- Upcoming programs & River Radio; typically get over 100 listeners via podcasts

- Working on designing Oscar Night for 2022

- **Children's Programing - Debra and Annie**

- Oct 7<sup>th</sup> first story time at the gazebo; about 5 kids and a few adults

- last week had another story time, this one indoors; one child and three adults

- Used the upstairs, lots of room to spread out even if the children numbers should increase; need to get it on

the city's calendar; masks will be required

- the steps we are taking to provide COVID protection should be broadcast to the public
- the hall is being protected with the new air filtration system procured through CARES dollars
- Committee is planning another program for older students; registration is required; there have been several registered
- Committee is making a poster to give the story times more publicity
- Also, there is a special email list of families that will be used

- **Collections - Beth**

- met in August and will again in October
- picked out mostly adult books and audios - these are the ones that Washington County Library will provide for us; the county library gives us \$500 twice a year
- We're not sure if the \$500 comes from our Jordan Bequest or whether it is separate; Jim will find out

- **Communications - Elaine**

- there have been more things to communicate about
- if we know things that could be posted as news, let Elaine know
- Elaine would also welcome ideas about improving the website

- **Fundraising** - Jim
  - Sue Logan, Lorelee, Mary and Jim working on getting a letter written requesting donations as our annual fundraiser
  
- **Land Acknowledgement** -
  - Formalize a committee and leadership:
    - Laurie has volunteered to be the committee chair
    - What the Group would hope to accomplish - go beyond the Statement to educate and show the care about our history - a fuller more complete story of our history
      - Wendy Ward sent an announcement about an upcoming grant of \$25,000 or \$50,000 to explain more about the history of your place; from a national historic preservation organization; Grant will be out in November.
        - may look to partner with the Washington County Historical Society
        - BIPOC - might give us further authenticity to embrace Indigenous people and other people of color
        - Look at the kinds of programs the Library could offer to this end
  - Big Read with ArtReach - Jim
    - *An American Sunrise* by Joy Harjo a book of poetry is this year's book; Joy is Native American
      - Happens in April; they would like to connect with Rosie Peters a local Native American poet
      - Could we connect it with our poetry crawl
  
- **Art** - Jim
  - Right now featuring Rick Benson
  - Will probably run for 3 months

- **Other Business - Jim**

- *Goal-setting process for Library - Laurie*

- have not noticed any reporting on goals and objectives for the Library; raises the question - “Do we have goals for us and our committees.”

- What would our future look like if we leveraged our strengths

- Mary brought up our Strategic Plan that we developed and expired in 2020 and wondering if we should revisit and update it

- Doing a survey of committee chairs, asking about planning, vision for the future, doing a refresh

- Perhaps a retreat would serve us better

- Suggestion for surveying our patrons and the larger community about what they think would be valuable

- Also might do select interviews along with these other ideas

- Mary will send out our present Strategic Plan to all

- Laurie will reach out to each Board member to get our personal input

- *Recruiting of Board Members - Jim*

- Christine is going off the Board after 6 years

- Juanita is planning at this time to go off the Board

- So we’ll need two new board members; need to figure out what strengths are needed; Jim and Mary will work on this

- *Allow meetings in Library* - Jim
  - General feeling is that the Library is not a good place to allow outside meetings right now

- *Enchanted Forest* - Gwen

- Does the Library want to participate again this year?

Yes

- We have all the pieces from last year in storage
- General feeling is that we do want to participate

- Next board meeting December 13th

- Adjourn 8:32 p.m.