

Draft Minutes
MarLA Board Meeting
December 13, 2021
(via ZOOM)
7:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Beth Honetschlager, Jim Maher, Elaine Larson, Janice Hunton, Laurie Schmidt, Annie Minnich, Debra Smith, Maxwell Smitten Lynn Bjorkman

Members Absent:

Christine Maefsky, Juanita Ikuta, Mary Burke

Also in attendance:

Sophia Spizak (prospective student liaison to the board)

Agenda

Welcome and Call to Order - Jim

Reading of Land Acknowledgement Statement - Jim

Secretary's Report – Jim (in Christine's absence)

- Minutes of October meeting were presented.
- Lynn moved to approve, Elaine seconded; minutes were unanimously approved

Treasurer's Update - Lynn

- Review of financials: Lynn sent out statement of activity to look at where we fall in relation to budget with notes on right-hand column on report. This is helpful to see where we are in terms of overall spending. Sizable estate donation in 2021, can't expect any estate giving in 2022. Not much fundraising activity in past couple of years. We received a few donations that were specifically earmarked: to offset PayPal expenses; for River Radio sound equipment; and to the film society which is tracked separately but is part of the library balance.
- Statement of financial position: very healthy balance, \$2600 belongs to MRAC grant for the film society to be spent for future events, film society balance has been kept separate to track revenue streams linked to these events.
- We are currently getting .15% return on our invested amounts.
- Questions? Could we consider I-bonds for some of our money? Recommendation from Ross Levin on River Radio, Lynn is comfortable with this idea. We are very liquid, so tying up 20K would be fine. Motion from Lynn to invest 10K in 2021, and 10K in 2022, Beth seconded the motion, no further discussion, passed with unanimous vote.
- Budget planning: budget information from Committees - Lynn has heard from three, still needs to hear from four, gentle nudge to get information to Lynn soon.

She will put together a budget, and present at February meeting.

- Jordan Bequest update: the check is waiting and will be deposited this week.
- Jim had an informative meeting regarding the Jordan Bequest, it is clear this is a restricted fund to benefit our library, with a separate account to keep track of revenue. Interest earned has dropped significantly in the past several years. There was a \$3400 disbursement in 2019, most likely for the outside return box for Washington county, and they agreed it was not proper use of this fund. They will start to send an annual report of activity in this account.

Committee Reports

Operations

- No one present to speak to Operations activity. Beth asked if we could be open more hours? There are lots of volunteers who want to work. Jim thinks it makes sense to return to our pre-Covid hours. Jim has talked to volunteers who say traffic is down on most shifts.

Adult Programming - Jim

- Zoom presentation by Whitney Moore, disappointing turnout with 25 attendees on-line .
- Doc nights have gone well, last one reached attendance limit of 50 people due to requiring pre-registrations.
- More programs: January - Owls of the Eastern Ice by Jonathan C. Slaght, about saving the world's largest owl; February - Winter's Children by Ryan Rodgers, about cross country skiing in the midwest.

Children's Programming – Debra and Annie

- Family Fun Night plans in January are being formed
- Proposed ideas for programming: making valentines cards, creating poetry for poetry month, teaching story-telling to kids
- Thinking of sending out a survey to see what families want
- Summer camps, thinking of offering second sessions and other ways to get more kids involved
- Thursday morning story time, 1-5 kids have attended, need to get the word out.
- Committee wants to get the word out about Children's programming so attendance is greater. Elaine asked if there is an idea of what kinds of publicity they are thinking of? Not yet. Would like to get word out to teachers, but it is difficult to get teacher engagement because they are usually so busy.

Collections – Beth

- Committee met October 30, purchased 35 books, Kay will purchase more books between meetings
- Talked about increasing DVD collection, didn't come to any conclusions
- Questions about whether it would be OK to post pictures of spines of new books on face book and web pages? Washington County Library posts pictures of the front covers and a little blurb of new books on their site. Will need to check copyright policies.

Communications – Elaine

- Lorelee would like to do an annual report for 10th anniversary, highlighting what the library has been doing, and she thought this could be a regular annual report. Laurie thought it could be combined with the annual fundraising letter.

Fundraising- Jim

- The fundraising letter went out last week, and so far a few donations have trickled in, but that should start to pick up, we have had a good year overall.
- Oscars Night - latest word is that the film distributor is not going to make the short documentaries available for viewing on-line as they did last year. We will have to make a decision soon about whether we will be doing an in-person Oscar Night Party, Oscars are in March, so we need to start planning in January if this is going to happen. Deb Black is “fired up” about helping with the party organization. We're still hoping that we could be still on-line this year if possible.

Land Acknowledgement Statement

- The LAS committee (Mary Hooley, Ann Reich, Jim Maher, Phil Anderson, Lynn Bjorkman, Laurie Schmidt) wrote a mission for implementing the LAS, recognizing that the library board wanted more than words on a page, but instead wanted action to reflect the sentiments of the statement. Mission is included in attached document.
- Three top goals: Offer at least two programs on native history of our area in 2022, find resources to make these presentations; build out and keep up-to-date our website page, to create a central resource location (read, watch, listen) for native voices; promote and support the Big Read which coincidentally is going to feature the National Poet Laureate, Joy Harjo; host Dr. Brenda Child in April
- Four other goals as well, but will focus on top three for now. These are outlined in attached document.
- The committee is beginning to articulate some values as we move forward: we want to get input from native people throughout our continued work with these goals; we want to make sure we have an up-to-date collection of native authors, art, etc. in the library; ensure that all members of the committee are committed to individual learning.

- Exploring partnership with Scandia Heritage Alliance, but not pursuing them right now, will start to build relationships, hope to expand later. Beth - tribal libraries in state, Beth is aware of connections and websites, wondering if we could donate to any of these tribal libraries. Committee attended Working with Native People session sponsored by Mille Lacs tribal library. Lots of good resources available, committee just needs to figure out which ones are good fits with us and how to proceed. Could collections from our library be donated to these libraries? How can we pay it forward? What is our committee's role?

Art -

- Displaying Mark Odegard, Artist at Pine Needles and long-time Marine resident, inspiration to do 1930-40 style art posters of the St. Croix. This show will remain up until February.
- Moving forward, Tammy would like to do four shows a year rather than six.

Other Items of Business

Strategic Planning Process (Laurie)

- Draft of process is attached. Laurie is wondering if we feel this process is on track with our needs? A good strategic plan paints a clear picture of what we want to see the library doing in 3-5 years, gets everyone aligned, and serves as tool for making decisions. It needs to be more than some papers that get filed away, rather it needs to be a living document. To make that happen, how do we want to work with the strategic plan so it is a map for our journey into the future? This is a draft, and not locked down at all.
- Soft kick-off in January, looking for speaker or article that speaks to the trends in libraries right now. What services are appropriate to our setting? Does anyone on board have resources for this? Jim will check with Amy at Washington Cty Library for resources they might have available.
- Laurie heard on radio program 1-A a panel of experts talking about big libraries, very interesting information, big libraries adding social workers to their staffs to learn about available social services.
- On-line data collection process to launch in February involving the board plus stakeholders (someone from restoration society, young voices, volunteers), beginning with an individual exercise (SWOT analysis) identifying strengths and weaknesses (internal), opportunities and threats (external).
- Next step will be to come together to do a vision session in March. What keeps us vibrant and viable in the future? The clearer the picture, the more likely we will be able to reach our vision.
- Goal-setting will be done at the committee level, using the vision to define what each committee can do to help reach the goals and the vision. Resource allocation can be done by small sub-committee, brought back to full board for approval.

- Questions/thoughts? Jim mentioned that this has been on the board's agenda for many years, didn't ever get far. This is a good framework to lay out the process. Proposed schedule is a bit ambitious, but steps are solid. A patron survey would be a very good idea to gather information about what the community thinks about how the library could be engaging, vibrant, relevant, etc. Especially May Township and Scandia residents could be involved in outreach to let folks know it is our mission to serve these communities as well.

Process of reviewing new Board Members (Jim)

- Christine and Juanita are leaving the board, so we will need to replace two members. Jim has talked to a few people for ideas for new members, but is still looking for more people to consider. Max is moving off the board as our youth member after this meeting, and Sophia is interested in taking on this role.

**Next board meeting:
February 21st, 2022
Adjourn 8:27 p.m.**