

Approved Minutes
MarLA Board Meeting
April 18, 2022 Marine Community Library
7:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Beth Honetschlager, Jim Maher, Elaine Larson (Zoom), Janice Hunton, Annie Minnich, Debra Smith, Lynn Bjorkman, Mary Burke, Deb Yanker Black, Laurie Schmidt (Zoom), Sophia Spizak

Members Absent:

Anne Keogh

Also Present:

Gwen Roden (Zoom)

Agenda

Welcome and Call to Order – Jim

Reading of Land Acknowledgement Statement – Jim

Secretary’s Report – Janice

- Minutes of 2/21/22 meeting were presented.
- Lynn moved to approve, Mary seconded; minutes were unanimously approved

Treasurer’s Report – Lynn

- Current financial position/state of activity - early activity is all according to the approved budget
- Lynn moved that Anne Keogh be named as an approved signer for checks, payments, and transfers at the Security State bank of Marine. Beth seconded the motion; unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Children’s Programing – Deb

- Children’s summer camp is full, committee is still looking for a few art presenters.
- Family game nights started; low attendance so far, planning more publicity; RSVP for planners requested so appropriate number of treats can be ordered.
- Story time started, slow start as well; ideas for increasing attendance include reading chapter books together with older groups of children, and connecting with home-schooling networks in the area. Debra and Gwen offered to reach out to groups they know.

Operations – Mary

- Potential future change of location for the library
 - The location of the library has recently been a topic of discussion with the City Council and the Board of the Marine Village School. Some City Council members have noted that

with needed updates to the Village Hall, they do not see the needs of the city and the needs of the library as compatible long-term. Possible solutions provided by the City Council and the School Board include moving the library to the school property. The time-line for decisions regarding the Village Hall are in the 2-5 year range, and recent Council meetings have not included further discussions of the library.

- The library is concerned that discussions involving our future have not included representatives of the MarLA board or our liaison to the Council. We are further concerned that discussions to date do not show a full understanding of our non-profit, donation-based, 100% volunteer-run status.
- We request that any further substantive discussions of the future of Marine Community Library include representatives of the MarLA board and our City Council liaison.
- We also request that the City Council does a thorough needs-assessment for office space, meeting space, and updates for ADA compliance for bathrooms, before making any decisions regarding the location of the library in the Village Hall.
- Volunteer additions: we have trained in new volunteers to the librarian rotation, and have returned to our pre-pandemic staffing of two volunteers per shift. We were excited that nine people signed up at the volunteer fair. They have been contacted by committee members depending on their area of volunteer interest.
- Mary Burke is working with Celia Wirth to replace Frontier internet and telephone with a new service in the library. This change could potentially affect the Washington County systems at Marine, and we should communicate with them as the transfer is happening.

Adult Programming – Jim

- On Thursday April 21, the Marine Community Library and ArtReach St. Croix will host Dr. Brenda Child, who will discuss the contemporary Jingle Dress tradition. This is part of the Big Read, and also aligns with our mission to create programming that actively reflects our our land-acknowledgment statement.
- Ideas for adult programming beginning this fall are currently in the planning stages.

Collections – Beth

- The collections committee will meet soon. In the meantime, new purchases are continuing, so current books are available. The website will be updated soon with the new additions to the collection.

Communications – Elaine

- We have a new logo for our 10-year anniversary, designed by Sue Knapp, which will be used in signage in the library as well as media posts and other library-related materials.
- Members of the committee recently attended a workshop focusing on marketing for small libraries, and the committee will consider some of the ideas presented. The presenter liked other types of SWAG more than bookmarks. We did not necessarily agree!

Fundraising – Mary

- A fundraising event featuring performer John Gorka, originally scheduled in 2020, has been rescheduled for April/May of 2023. Details will be forthcoming.

Strategic Plan – Laurie

- The strategic planning committee, Mary Burke, Juanita Ikuta, and Laurie Schmidt, announced a plan for updating and refreshing the original MarLA strategic plan.

- The proposed time-line for the plan begins in May 2022 and continues into the fall of 2022.
- Stages of the process include inviting all participants to read articles relating to current trends seen in rural libraries; completing a survey to gather data for a SWOT (strengths/weaknesses/opportunities/threats) analysis; a vision session retreat; and a planning session to determine goals and action steps.
- Participants will include the MarLA board and “at large” community members who will provide an expanded lens. The committee also plans to interview the city council members and city clerks, our founding mothers, and Scandia and May Township representatives.
- The committee is requesting funds up to \$600 to purchase a one-month subscription to Survey Monkey, and up to \$500 for administrative work to collate SWOT data into user-friendly flip charts for the vision session.
- Laurie moved to have the board approve an expense not to exceed \$600 for strategic planning expenses; motion was seconded by Deb Yanker Black and unanimously approved.

Art – Jim

- Tammy Newcomb has the entire next year planned for exhibitions in the library. Great job, Tammy!

Other Business

- Jim thought we should adopt a policy to address issues of book banning and censorship in the event that the need arises in our community. Mary Burke and Debra Smith both have experiences with other organizations relating to banned books, and they will get copies of policies from other institutions for us to consider.
- We are in the very early stages of doing research about how to establish an endowment for the library. Lynn is meeting on Wednesday April 20 with the St. Paul and Mpls foundation, who has expressed interest to see if there would be a match with our needs. There is a cost associated with an endowment, but there is also an amazing opportunity for investments that would be out of our reach to do alone. This is the first meeting of potentially many others to determine whether an endowment is a wise step for our future planning.
- Plans are being made for a float for the 4th of July parade for the library. Deb Yanker Black, Janice Hunton, and Mary Burke will be exploring ideas and presenting a plan to the board at our next meeting.

**Next board meeting:
June 20, 2022
Adjourn 8:16 p.m.**