

Approved Minutes
MarLA Board Meeting
June 20, 2022 (Marine Community Library)
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Beth Honetschlager, Elaine Larson, Janice Hunton, Debra Smith, Lynn Bjorkman, Mary Burke, Anne Keogh, Deb Yanker Black, Laurie Schmidt

Members Absent: Jim Maher, Sophia Spizak, Annie Minnich **Also Present:** Gwen Roden

Agenda

Welcome and Call to Order – Beth

Reading of Land Acknowledgement Statement – Beth

Secretary's Report – Janice

- Minutes of April 18, 2022 meeting were presented.
- Lynn moved to approve, Mary seconded; minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – Anne

- Paul Creager will spend the remaining balance of the MRAC grant for the Marine Film Society by the end of June.
- CDs will mature soon, and decisions to renew will be made as needed.
- T-bonds continue to be a good investment. The interest rate, currently 9.6%, is reset every 6 months, and after five years there is no penalty for early withdrawal.
- The library is running under budget at this point, which is expected at this time of year.
- Jordan Bequest money is typically deposited in the fall.

Committee Reports

Children's Programing – Debra

- The science/art summer camp is going very well. 75 family members were in attendance for the kick-off party on June 11, 2022. Sessions for week one were well attended. Week two is beginning this week. The camp is meeting at the Marine Mills Folk School this year, which offers options for inside and outside classes, on-site bathrooms, and other helpful amenities.
- Sue Logan is requesting the board consider a recognition of Ruth Willius for her extensive work with the children's programing. Perhaps something at the 10th birthday party. Debra will ask Ruth if she is going to be in town on October 7th.
- Story Time - all slots are full for volunteer story tellers.
- Blanket bingo is being held once per month this summer.
- The summer reading program is up and running.
- The library intends to continue offering story time at the preschool once a week.

Operations – Mary

- Update on laptop purchase - after some discussion, the decision was made to purchase a PC laptop for library patrons. Mary will buy this much-requested and needed item this week, so it will be available soon for our patrons.

- Volunteers report their comfort in understanding the various tasks involved in covering a shift in the library, thanks to the good training provided by the library volunteer coordinators.
- The updated Volunteer Handbook is complete, and is available in a hard copy in the library and also will be included in a password-protected volunteer resource page on the website.

Adult Programming – Beth

- The Documentary Night event on June 2, Conducting Life, was well received, with about 50 people in attendance.
- An event with artist Dennis Reynolds from Jackson Meadow will hopefully be scheduled for later this year.
- Already on the calendar is the September 22, 2022 event focusing on the topic of electric vehicles.

Collections – Beth

- Washington County is buying \$500 of books for the library, which is estimated to be about 30-35 new books.
- We revisited the need for a clear policy regarding book removal requests, and agreed to read the policy stated in the Washington County Library system and adapt it for our purposes.
- The book shelves are reaching capacity, and the usual culling process is more difficult because of Covid. The reduced circulation for the past two years has made it more difficult to determine which books have lower check-out rates.

Communications – Elaine

- The communications committee is very busy this summer sharing information about the children's programming.
- The 10th anniversary logo, designed by Sue Knapp, is available for use.
- Lorelee has offered to create a 10-year report for the library. This generous offer prompted a discussion of how often we should commit to doing a summary report: annually, every 5 years, every 10 years? What is reasonable, and what is helpful?
- Elaine is working on updates to the website, including a password-protected page on the website for volunteer information, a "donate" button, and general updates to hours, events, and board members.
- The Country Messenger ad for the library needs to be regularly updated to include upcoming events and programming.
- The Communications committee would like to recruit more members, because there is always lots of important work to share for this vital community.

Fundraising – Mary

- MCL is looking into hosting a book sale at Scandia's Taco Days and/or at the September 17th Folk School demonstration event.
- We are still firming up details for the John Goroka concert in April 2023.
- The Scandia Lions Club needs a request from us for their traditional donation to the library. A suggestion was made to request a donation for our patron PC. Mary will follow up with Lorelee for procedural questions to make this request.

Land Acknowledgment – Laurie

- Mary Hoolie, Laurie Schmidt, and Anne Reich met this week to discuss the future impact they envision with the Land Acknowledgement statement for the library and the community. Ideas

include a page on the MCL website with a list of resources: books, documentaries, NACDI in Minneapolis, museums, etc.

Strategic Plan – Laurie

- The planning committee has completed the SWAT analysis, which gives a good picture of the present. The 80% response rate for our stakeholder survey is fantastic! The main themes emerging are: the community values and supports our mission, volunteer recruitment and retention is a high priority, as is sustainable funding for the library.
- The visioning session is 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. August 6th, with August 20th as a back-up date, location TBD.

Art

- Art display by Dennis Reynolds is up in the library through August. Shows are scheduled through the remainder of the year.

Other Business

Great Idea Competition – Beth

- Ideas for this grant include an outdoor covered venue, and support for River Radio. The deadline for grant application is too soon for this year, so we will consider applying in the future. More ideas may emerge from the visioning session in August.

4th of July Parade Float – Deb

- Board members and their willing and helpful spouses are creating a birthday cake float to celebrate the library's 10 years, walkers with sandwich boards highlighting library programming will accompany the float, and hand out newly designed bookmarks including updated hours and contact information as well as program highlights. We will participate in the Marine 4th of July parade, and are hoping to join in the Scandia Taco Days parade as well.

Update on Endowment – Lynn

- Jim, Anne, and Lynn met with the St. Paul and Mpls Foundation and the St. Croix Valley Foundation, and are in the process of putting together a report of feasibility for setting up an endowment for the library through one of these foundations.

Update on 10th birthday party

- After some discussion, we suggested a date of Friday October 7th for our birthday party, which is after the visibility of both parades, and after the visioning session for strategic planning. In hopes of attracting a wide range of ages and patrons from the surrounding communities, we hope to include music, a story teller, a vision for the future of the library, and cake! Mary will ask for the reservation of October 7 for the Village Hall. Laurie will chair the committee, and is asking the board to bring ideas to our next meeting.

Next board meeting:

August 15, 2022

Adjourn 8:32 p.m.