

**Approved Minutes**  
**MarLA Board Meeting**  
**August 15, 2022 Marine Community Library**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:**

Beth Honetschlager, Jim Maher, Janice Hunton, Annie Minnich, Lynn Bjorkman, Mary Burke, Anne Keogh, Deb Yanker Black, Sophia Spizak

**Members Absent:**

Elaine Larson, Laurie Schmidt

**Also Present:**

Gwen Roden

**Agenda**

**Welcome and Call to Order – Jim**

**Reading of Land Acknowledgement Statement – Jim**

**Board Membership Update**

- Debra Smith has resigned from the board. A question was raised whether we replace her position now or wait until February when we fill all open positions for the board.
- We need more help on the Communications and Children’s Programming committees. If we knew of someone with Children’s programming ideally from Scandia, we could contact them now. Some names were mentioned, and Jim will contact them.
- Jim is thinking that it might make sense for him not to be the chair for his last year, to give someone some experience in a transition year.

**Secretary’s Report – Janice**

- Minutes of June 20, 2022 meeting were presented.
- Discussion: a few small corrections were noted.
- Lynn moved to approve, Annie seconded; minutes were unanimously approved

**Treasurer’s Report – Anne**

- Review of financials: MC Library continues to be in solid financial shape.
- Current financial position/state of activity: One CD is coming due soon, Anne needs to know whether to roll over or not, and for what amount. Everything else is “status quo.” Current financial position is similar to this time last year, and is solid.

**Committee Reports**

**Operations – Jim**

- Village Hall considerations: Jim introduced the idea of the library paying rent for the space as a good will opportunity to support the Village hall and the city. Mary provided a history of the

relationship of the library and the city. Discussion: If we are in favor of this, we could present the council with an offer, and ask for a lease for a length of time that could possibly protect our tenure in the building. Several ideas were presented for how we would determine a fair rental price to offer the city. Gwen shared that the council has discussed the various fees for use of public property, and is generally being more strict about their decisions not to waive fees for use. Gwen agreed that being proactive with the council in offering terms would be wise. The terms could include use of the hall, AV use, etc. We could also consider in-kind services to make it feel more like a partnership rather than landlord/tenant, and we could discuss with Lynette what types of things we could take on to balance the work load for the city. Jim would like to present our offer at council meeting so it is of public record.

- A laptop has been purchased for the library for patron use, and we are in the process of setting up accounts.

### **Adult Programming – Jim**

- Sept 22, 2022 - topic is electric vehicles
- October - birthday party and possible candidate forum
- Other programs in planning stages - Dennis Reynolds, artist, talking about public art and place-making; Patty Isaacs, local author, to discuss her book about teaching English in China in 1981 and 2005; program highlighting Minnesota authors; Jim Maher and Gayle Knutson program about biking in Europe
- Doc Night - planning on three or four programs this season, timing is unknown at this point. Unfortunately they did not get a renewal for their grant from the state arts board
- River Radio will start September 17th. An idea to do “River Radio Live” as a fundraiser for the library was met with enthusiasm.

### **Art – Jim**

- September show will be featuring Carl Wegener, photographer

### **Children’s Programing – Jim**

- The library hosted six outside story time events, and the attendance ranged from 11 to 34 children
- The Science/Art camp was a huge success, and the Folk School worked very well as a venue
- There is one more week of reading incentive program this summer
- Lots of new families moving to the Marine area, so focus is turning to school programs for the fall
- The Children’s Programing committee is looking for new members.

### **Collections – Beth**

- The Collections committee has suggested around 100 books, which will be winnowed down for final consideration.
- Local authors are plentiful in the area, and could be highlighted in the collection more than we do.
- We will purchase five new videos (DVDs) to support patrons who do not have streaming services.
- Request for Reconsideration - Washington County policy looks very reasonable, and could be easily adapted for our use. Several American Library Association documents are linked to the

Washington County policy, and we could do the same. Beth will adapt the policy for our use, and bring it to the board at the next meeting.

## **Communications – no update this time**

### **Fundraising – Jim and Mary**

- A John Gorka concert has been penciled in for April, but his manager asked if we could change to February, March, or June. The question was raised if this is too close to the free concert he did this summer? Are we open to considering other artists for a fundraiser? Mary, Lynn, and Deb will meet to discuss this fundraising event.

### **Land Acknowledgment**

- The board will find another speaker for 2023 to highlight our continued commitment to action for our land acknowledgment.

### **Strategic Plan – no update this time**

- The strategic plan is on hold for now

### **Taco Daze parade/Folk School Festival**

- September 10: 4:00 parade, we would like walkers to help promote the library.
- September 17th: 10-2 Folk school festival - we will have a booth there, book sale, cake, Committee: Jan, Lynn, Anne

### **10th Birthday party October 7 7:00 p.m.**

- Focus on children's programming and honoring Ruth's work for the library. Michael Hall was suggested as a presenter, with a book reading, and Q and A with him, Valley book sellers sell his books. We will order a cake from Marine General. Committee: Beth, Mary, Jim,

### **Establishment of Endowment Fund - Lynn, Jim, Anne**

- Lynn presented summary of background research about endowments. St. Croix Valley Foundation is being recommended because of familiarity in the region. They manage 100 million in endowment funds with a wide range of sizes. Marine Community Library is in a good position to establish an endowment, and it is a strong asset for our donors.
- Discussion: The Jordan Bequest could potentially be moved into the endowment, which would give us more direct control of those funds. The large accounting questions for the bequest have been answered, so we are at a good point to suggest moving it.
- Is the endowment unrestricted? We would put terms into the language so withdrawals would be used for purposes intended and approved by the library board. There would be a board committee engaged with decisions regarding this endowment, including at a minimum the current board chair and treasurer, and others who are interested. Lynn can't think of a single downside to establishment of this endowment.
- Lynn moved that the Marine Community Library immediately establish an endowment fund through the St. Croix Valley Foundation with initial seed amount of \$25k coming out of the libraries current financials. Annie seconded. No further discussion, approved unanimously.
- Jim moved that endowment committee will be established including the board chair, the treasurer, and Lynn. Anne seconded. No further discussion, approved unanimously.

**Other Business**

- Volunteer appreciation - Jim will talk to Loree about offering the St. Croix Chocolates coupon again as a gift for our volunteers.

**Next board meeting:  
October 17 , 2022  
Adjourn time 8:45 p.m.**