

Minutes
MarLA Board Meeting
April 17, 2023 (MCL)
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Jim Maher, Elaine Larson, Janice Hunton, Lynn Bjorkman, Mary Burke, Anne Keogh, Kathy Scoggin, Deb Yanker Black, Laurie Schmidt,

Members Absent: Beth Honetschlager, Sophia Spizak, Annie Minnich,

Also Present: Lorelee Dilorenzo

Agenda

Welcome and Call to Order – Jim

Reading of Land Acknowledgement Statement – Jim

Secretary’s Report – Jim

- Minutes of February 20, 2023 meeting were presented.
- Discussion: none
- Lynn moved to approve, Elaine seconded; minutes were unanimously approved .

Library Sign and Restoration Update – Lorelee

- The Restoration Society is focusing on the up-keep of the Village Hall, and has now completed painting of the lobby, staircase, and upstairs hall. The paint used is very susceptible to damage from tape of any kind. Education is needed so community members do not use tape to post notices.
- The lobby is being changed into a community space, with new rugs and furniture arriving soon.
- Windows are an issue throughout the building, and it is the plan to make them all operable.
- The Restoration Society is navigating the delicate balance between functionality and sentimentality regarding the front door.
- Sue Knapp is working on a sign for the library door identifying it as Marine Community Library, and another sign for the book drop. There is a need to let patrons know the library is open even when the door is closed, and ideas were presented for Lorelee to take back to the Restoration Society.
- Sue will also do a framed land acknowledgement statement for display in the library.

Treasurer’s Report – Anne

- Review of financials: the library’s financial position is stable. The John Gorka fundraiser net proceeds were \$2700. Donations for the Joyce Leslie memorial currently total \$1800 for the collections committee.
- Jordan Bequest update: board members met with Fran Miron, Washington County Commissioner, Jennifer Wagenius, Washington County Deputy Administrator, Jacquie Kramer, the new Washington County Library Director, and Bill Miller to discuss options for the transfer

of the Jordan Bequest to the library endowment. The meeting was positive, and we are waiting for direction on next steps.

Committee Reports

Adult Programming – Jim

- The final program of the season, Greenland: A Canary in the Coal Mine for Climate Change, is Thursday April 20th in the Village Hall
- Adult programming will start again in the fall.

Art – Jim

- Virginia Averill's show will remain up through late May, and Tom Maakestad will present a show beginning in late May.

Children's Programming – Kathy

- Weather was not a friend for the magician event on April 1, so they are trying to reschedule to another date.
- Earth Day events in collaboration with the village school are robust: new books for the occasion, creation of a big puzzle, organized trash pick-up around the community, a performance of the bluegrass ensemble from the Folk School, Kathy will make seed balls for pollinators, Ruth will make fairy houses, topics and events geared toward adults will also be available at the school.
- Plans are underway for a June 11 kick off event for summer camps. Details still being determined, and ideas include books for give-away, MN activities, book walk (like a cake walk, but winner gets a book) and working in collaboration with Washington County Library for activities and prizes. The first week of summer camp for younger students is full with a waiting list, and the second week still has space available.
- Thursday mornings story time is ongoing, and the committee is working on ways to attract more families to attend.

Collections – Jim

- The committee purchased 30 new titles for the library. Kathy asked about the process for selecting children's books, and if there is anyone from the children's committee on the collections committee. Lynn will be joining the committee, and she will be happy to take ideas for children's books.

Communications – Elaine

- Lynn helped to get the endowment info on the website so there are now two columns for contributions.
- The committee is in the process of adding a password-protected page for staff to add the volunteer handbook and other information.
- We are continuing to work on more ways to reach participants for the children's programming, and would like to find some youth to help with ideas for reaching older students.

Endowment – Lynn

- Efforts continue for spreading the word about the endowment, and Lynn would like more ideas for networking.

Fundraising – Jim

- Ideas for future fundraising events include a book sale at the fair at the school, and maybe we could invite local authors and native authors to participate in a book signing event.
- After the successful John Gorka concert, we are thinking of other artists to invite, such as the Cactus Blossoms, or Ann Reed and Dan Chouinard for a sing-a-long.

Land Acknowledgment – Laurie

- Jim would like us to come up with a shorter version of the land acknowledgment statement for use in a situations when it will be read aloud. The full version will be represented in the library plaque.
- We received an email request to send a letter of support for the Indian Recovery Act. We feel that our role is more about education rather than taking a stance for legislation, so we are opting not to reply to this request.

Operations – Mary

- We got some interest from the volunteer fair for new volunteers, so there is an upcoming volunteer training session scheduled. We discussed the need for setting an appropriate age for volunteers to work alone in the library, and to make sure a parent is present if a minor wishes to volunteer.
- The lock box location needs to be reviewed due to dangerous icy conditions this past winter.
- The furnace needs to be cleaned, and Young and Sons will be hired to do this service annually moving forward. Now that we are paying for heat, we would like a programmable thermostat.
- We are going to start tracking patron data per hour when we are open to align our availability with the most need in the community. We will analyze the data and make decisions as needed, perhaps moving a three-hour shift up an hour, or shortening it to two hours.

Strategic Plan – Laurie

- There was good consensus for priorities coming from the visioning session. Laurie is working on a clear and compelling vision statement and is open to including other writers for crafting the draft. We continue to work with the SWAT analysis to consider our strengths and threats.
- Next steps include goal-setting to determine manageable goals within a reasonable time line. Discussion: Mary agreed with Laurie's vision for this process, and suggested having all committees identify one or two SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) goals, and keeping these goals on a living document we can all access to update. Lynn asked if there are there other groups/stakeholders who are influential and their support would be beneficial to include in the process? To whom could we be accountable for achieving our goals?

Other Business

Insurance Coverage

- Anne and Lynn met with agents at Security State Bank to review our insurance coverage to make sure it is correct and not duplicative of what the city includes for the library. This review has been completed and evidence of the City being listed on our coverage as an Additional Insured will be sent to Lynette.
- The premium for Directors and Officers insurance is \$698 annually, which would require board approval.

- Jim moved to add Directors and Officers Insurance to our policy. Kathy seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

All Are Welcome: sign suggestion

- Tabled until next meeting.

**Next board meeting:
June 26, 2023
Adjourn time 9:03 p.m.**