

MarLA Board Meeting
June 26, 2023 MCL/Zoom
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Janice Hunton, Lynn Bjorkman, Beth Honetschlager, Anne Keogh, Mary Burke, Kathy Scoggin, Laurie Schmidt, Deb Yanker Black, Jim Maher, Annie Minnich, Sophia Spisak

Members Absent:

Elaine Larson

Also Present: Lorelee DiLorenzo, Addie Smitten

Agenda

Welcome and Call to Order – Jim

Reading of Land Acknowledgement Statement – Jim

Secretary’s Report – Janice

- Minutes of April 17, 2023 meeting were presented.
- Discussion: none
- Lynn moved to approve, Deb seconded, minutes were unanimously approved

Treasurer’s Report – Anne

- Current financial position/state of activity: donations were made in memory of loved ones, and the Scandia Lions Club gave a contribution for technology. We will check to confirm balance for the Film Society.
- Jordan Bequest update: meeting scheduled for July 14, 2023 with Fran Miron, Jennifer Wagenius, Bill Miller, and Jacquie Kramer at the library to discuss future plans.

Scandia Little Free Library

- Lorelee’s father built the structure for a Little Free Library that will be installed in the Lilleskogen park in Scandia as an outreach project for the MCL. It will be stocked with children’s books culled from our collection. We will register with the LFL association to get an official plaque for the structure and to be included on the map of libraries. Ideas for letting the community know about the LFL include creating posters to hang both in Marine and in Scandia, advertising in the MCL’s children’s programing, and posting lawn signs at the Scandia farmer’s market. We are responsible for the upkeep of the LFL, and will determine how best to keep it well stocked and maintained.

Committee Reports

Adult Programming – Jim

- We have identified many potential speakers, and are soon going to finalize the slate of programs to start in September.

Art – Jim

- Tom Maakestad's show is up now, the fall show is TBD, Virginia Averill is tentatively scheduled for end of year, and Carrie Katzenmeyer in the spring. Discussion included the possibility of a children's art show from the Marine Village School.

Children's Programing – Kathy

- Summer programming started with the kick-off event at gazebo with many activities including craft tables, a book walk, and wildlife center representatives. Around 70 people attended.
- The summer reading incentive began in mid-June, and children are actively participating. MCL is using a similar card system to the Washington County program, and students will turn in their card at end of summer to be eligible for prizes.
- The science/art camp was a great success again this year, with 16 students for week one, and 12 students for week two.
- Upcoming events include weekly story time starting July 6, bingo game night in July, and the magician and hoolahoopers later in the summer.

Collections – Beth

- The collections committee met April 29 and recommended 69 books, of which 45 were purchased. Most new acquisitions were in the adult fiction and mystery categories. Two books by Julie Cadwallader Staub were purchased from funds given by Washington county. Another committee meeting is scheduled for July.

Land Acknowledgment – Laurie

- We will work on a shorter version of the statement for use in public speaking situations.

Operations – Mary

- Four refresher training sessions were very successful. We will continue to offer individual training sessions for new volunteers.

Strategic Plan – Laurie

- Review vision statement draft: (Laurie reminded us of the qualities of a successful vision statement: short, 3-4 elements, easy to understand, clear, compelling) Our three elements are 1. we are welcoming, 2. all volunteer, and 3. we have financial sustainability. Discussion: some would like to have "books" mentioned earlier, but at end of sentence is also a way to give it emphasis; some words are redundant and could be eliminated; the sentence about financial sustainability could be clearer and more exciting. Jim will wordsmith another draft based on this discussion.
- Identify SMART goals and next steps to achieve the vision: Jim, Laurie, and Mary will work on next steps to begin to answer what we want to focus our time and energy on this year, and how we can track progress toward our goals to be accountable to the vision, the board, and the community?

Other Business

"All are Welcome" sign suggestion

- We discussed the suggestion to display an "All Are Welcome" sign in connection with the library, and everyone felt comfortable with the idea of including it in the sandwich board we

place on the front sidewalk when the library is open. Beth so moved, Lynn seconded, and it received unanimous approval.

Future plans update

- 4th of July parade in Marine and Taco Daze in Scandia in September: We felt that there was not enough time to plan for the 4th of July parade, but we will consider a presence of some kind in the September parade in Scandia.
- Marine Mills Folk School Fall Festival: Jim has reserved a booth for us again this year, and we need to decide whether we want to have a book sale, or some other type of activity.
- Meetings are scheduled with the city council, planning commission, and the Historical Society to discuss the Mill site, and potential uses of the property currently owned by the Historical Society. The society is open to transferring the property parcel to the city, but we have not heard further information about it beyond the initial discussion.

Other

- We have talked to the Marine Village School about collaborating with MCL to get all the students signed up for library cards and to introduce them to the library. They are anticipating enrollment of around 100 students for the fall. With the growth to include older students, we could potentially partner with the school to provide help with research projects.

**Next board meeting:
August 21, 2023
Adjourn time 8:50 p.m.**