

Final Minutes
MarLA Board Meeting
October 16, 2023 (MCL/Zoom)
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Laurie Schmidt, Jim Maher, Janice Hunton, Addie Smitten, Kathy Scoggin, Mary Burke, Beth Honetschlager, Anne Keogh, Elaine Larson

Members Absent: Lynn Bjorkman, Deb Yanker Black, Annie Minnich

Also Present: Paul Creager

Agenda

Welcome and Call to Order – Jim

Reading of Land Acknowledgement Statement – Jim

Addition of Youth Member to the Board - Jim

Addie Smitten was nominated to replace Sophia as our youth member. She is a junior in Stillwater HS, is very active in several sports, and is interested in community engagement. Jim moved that we approve the addition of Addie to the MCL board, Laurie seconded the motion, and all approved.

Secretary's Report – Janice

- Minutes of August 2023 meeting were presented.
- Discussion: none
- Beth moved to approve, Mary seconded; minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – Anne

- Review of financials
- Current position - on budget for the year, strong financial position remains. The CD coming due in December will be rolled over if rates stay favorable.

Committee Reports

Adult Programming – Jim

- Documentary Night. We currently have funding for one Documentary Night this year slated for December 7th, and are looking to fund two other events in the spring of 2024. Expenses vary depending on the film and the film makers. Paul is suggesting that we consider a budget into the future that reflects payment for all facets of the program including curating, projection, and travel expenses, and that honors the work of the artists providing the expertise for Documentary Night. Perhaps \$1200 to \$1300 would be a good number to consider for each event. Documentary Nights will be a major focus of our fundraising efforts this season. Jim moved that we allot \$2500 for February and March 2024 Documentary Nights. Laurie seconded the motion, and all approved.

- Other adult programming will be decided for 2024 in an upcoming meeting of the committee, but nothing is firm yet.

Art – Jim

- September through the end of November: Bob White
- December through the end of February: Ginny Averill
- March through the end of May: Carrie Katzenmeyer
- June through August: Cynthia Dickensen

Children's Programming – Kathy

- Due to a lack of attendance, the Children's Programming committee has decided to pause the Thursday morning story telling events.
- Volunteers will go to the Marine Village School for story time two times a week.
- The Macphail children's music event, funded by Washington County Library, in the Village Hall was well attended and received with enthusiasm.
- Family pizza game nights will begin in November
- The Children's Programming committee is forming an idea for Pajama Storytime, which would encourage children and their parents to attend in their pajamas to hear a story before bedtime.

Collections – Beth

- Little Free Library (LFL) grant - Lorelee's mom got a grant from Thrivent for \$250 for books for the LFL. Maintenance of the LFL in Scandia is our responsibility, and we want it stocked with good quality books, with a leaning toward children's books but welcoming a wide range of literature. We need someone to check the LFL routinely, and need a system to have volunteers sign up to visit it. We will start with board members, and expand to all of our volunteers as needed. We also need to figure out how to stock it, and perhaps the MCL's weeded books would be a good source. Valley Booksellers are another great resource for recommending children's books if we wish to purchase them.
- Beth is trained in the cataloguing of new materials in case Kay is no longer wishing to manage this responsibility. Christine and Molly are still working with Kay to decide on new acquisitions. Beth did say it is helpful to have a trained librarian on this committee for cataloguing questions.

Communications – Elaine

- The PR campaign for Family Fun night is starting now, with an RSVP tab on the website. Eventbrite is changing and charging more money so we are trying an in-house option for managing reservations. Kathy mentioned a long-range wish list from the Children's Programming committee, including managing Instagram and other social media platforms that may attract younger patrons. Addie has much experience with Instagram, and said she had time to post events if she was given content. Jim suggested that Lorelee and Addie connect about how to proceed.

Endowment - Jim

- Jordan Bequest update - the small working group is currently creating a resolution to move the money from the county to the St. Croix Foundation in a separate Endowment from the MCL Endowment, with provisions for the county to have visibility to see what is happening with the money. Jim hopes to have this ready by the end of this year, but there is still much work to be done.

- Long-time community member Melinda Hoke is interested in joining the fundraising committee.

Fundraising – Jim

- The annual fundraising letter is being drafted by Lorelee this week, and Documentary Night is a major focus of the letter.
- Jim asked about the process and feasibility of donation acknowledgments. Anne said it is somewhat automated, and takes time and attention to detail, but that it is a manageable task.

Land Acknowledgment – Laurie

- Laurie assured us that there is ongoing interest among the small group who crafted the land acknowledgment to host events specifically around education and turning our words into action.
- Sue Knapp is working on a framed statement to hang in the library.

Operations – Mary

- Mary asked whether the annual volunteer recognition event could move to January/February in the Village Hall? There was agreement that this would be a good time and place.
- Mary would like to include a gratitude story at the beginning of the board meetings to highlight the great things we know are happening at the library.
- We are training in one new volunteer to begin covering shifts at the library.
- The library is open normal hours, 4-7pm, on Halloween, and we will be giving out cool pencils to patrons who visit.
- The Washington County new grey locker project is moving along with a completion date of mid-November 2023. New lockers will provide better technology, increased capacity and easier access for patrons using their library card rather than a code.
- We are starting a new volunteer and patron book review project which uses small cards for display on the library shelves. All patrons and volunteers will be encouraged to comment on books they liked, and these small notes will be placed by the book on the shelf.
- The laptop printer was acting up a bit. We will watch this and if continues to give us troubles, we may have to look for a different model.

Strategic Plan – Laurie

- Vision statement: A draft of a vision statement was introduced, which was the most current result of the library board retreat earlier this year, committee work to synthesize the results of the retreat, and extensive wordsmithing by several people to arrive at the current draft that is concise, clear, and highlights the most important aspects of the library. A suggestion was made to change language in one sentence to reflect the dynamic updating of our collections.
- Goals: Mary offered drafts of three big goals for us to discuss. Each of these goals will have action items associated with them, but we want to make sure we are creating actions for the right goals. The board was enthusiastic about the goals presented.

Other Business

- Enchanted Forest - we are signed up to sponsor a tree, and it will be decorated the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Suggestions were made to increase the type of decorations we have for the tree, and Janice offered to create them.
- The MCL was asked if we would be interested in participating in Vinterfest in Scandia, January 27, 2024. We can do whatever we want, inside or outside, perhaps including a story time, and

also promoting the LFL. Most suggestions were leaning toward a children's focus, so Kathy will talk to Children's Programing committee about ideas.

- Membership on the board for next year. Jim and Beth are rolling off the board at the end of our next meeting due to term limits, and Anne has expressed her desire to end her tenure as well. We need to find replacements for President, Vice President, and Treasurer. Whew!

**Next board meeting:
December 18 , 2023
Adjourn time 8:42 p.m.**