MarLA Board Meeting
April 21, 2025 (MCL)
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Lynn Bjorkman, Deb Yanker Black, Janice Hunton, Liz Kelly, Elaine Larson, Jim Maher, Kathy Scoggin, Debra Mitts Smith, Kathy Trombly-Ferrin

Members Absent:
Mary Burke, Annie Minnich, Laurie Schmidt, Addie Smitten

Also Present:
Sue Knapp, Tammy Newcomb

Agenda

Welcome and Call to Order – Lynn

Reading of Land Acknowledgement Statement – Lynn

Reading of Vision Statement - Lynn

New Business - Lynn

- Communications proposal for updated library logo (with guest Sue Knapp). The new artwork for the logo includes the rings of growth of a tree retained from the MarLa logo, combined with a new pine seedling. Color palette considerations included a red with slightly less saturation, teal, and gray. A darker, friendlier font in all caps, easier to read online, was also incorporated into the design. In general, Sue aimed for a lighter, brighter, and more contemporary look. This will work well in print, on line, and on SWAG as well.
  Discussion: love it, playful but with reverence to our history, green and red not a problem, new seedling growing out of cross cut cambium is scientifically accurate. The cambium is also used by the Native community ceremonially, so that is another great connection for the logo design. Lynn moved that we accept the new logo and the phased approach for implementation, Kathy S. seconded, and all were in favor.
- Art Exhibit discussion (with guest Tammy Newcomb). Tammy acknowledged that the library is a small space, and that events have grown in frequency. All of this vibrant activity creates a risk for the artwork. Tammy is proposing that she put a hold on the art shows until we can think of a way to protect the art amidst all of the programing that happens in the space.
  Discussion: Have artists expressed concern? Only one in all the years she has been curating shows. Lynn commented that the conversation is well timed given the juncture of deciding priorities about how we use our space. We love the art shows, but we also need more shelf space for our growing collection, especially of children's literature. Kathy S. mentioned the Marine Village School is interested in hanging a student art show. Liz suggested we might want to expand our "Marine-centric" shows to include some Native artists as well. Jan asked if protective cases work, and Tammy thought they would if there was an easy way to hang the artwork inside the cases.

Secretary's Report – Janice

- Minutes of February 17, 2025 meeting were presented.
- Discussion: none
- Elaine moved to approve, Deb seconded; minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – Kathy

- Board report will be in a new format for the future, as a brief summary rather than the more detailed previous version. Full reports are always available as well. Not much activity this quarter to report.
- A gift was received from Sunrise Stillwater Rotary for collection investments related to the Marine Village School. They would like us to come to a meeting and tell them about the collaboration between the library and the school. Kathy S will attend.
- We have confirmation that the Jordan Bequest grant will be initiated by mid-May.
- The Arrow Broken Poetry Collective would like to include in their materials that we are a proud supporter of, and the fiscal agent for, their organization.
- Lynn requested the board approve $600 in expenditures for non-budgeted outreach items for upcoming summer events, including bookmarks and seed packets for the May 1st open house at the Village Hall, and temporary tattoos for 4th of July parade. Jim moved that we approve these funds, all were in favor.

Committee Reports

Adult Programming – Jim

- Doc Night: the team is planning 4-5 nights next year to start in October; in addition to doc night, they would also like to include "pop-up" current feature films, and a children's program for older children with an educational component about film making, sound editing, etc.
- We have established a formal policy that in order for Zoom to be available for events there needs to be a high level of community interest.
- Local author talks may be structured to include three authors per event in hopes of drawing a broader audience.
- We will host a program to feature Ed Fleming from the Science Museum on September 22. The topic is Native American archeological finds on the banks of the St. Croix.
- Other potential speakers include Louise Erdrich, Leif Enger, and Kerri Miller from MPR.
- We are working in coordination with Kevin Nyenhuis, Curt Moe, and Bill Simpson for the paddle-craft show July. 8.
- River Radio is wrapping up Season 6 with two shows in May and a potential summer program as well.

Beyond Land Acknowledgement

- Owamni restaurant excursion will be held on April 27th, and all tickets were sold quickly for this event.
- As part of the Children's Summer Camp, author Colleen Baldrica will present a Native-themed unit.
- A Grand Garden at the Marine Village School is in the initial planning stages. The vision is for elders to work with children on native approaches to gardening.
- The Scandia Heritage Alliance team continues to work on planning for the indigenous room.

- We are currently exploring the idea of hosting author Tara Perron for a Native-themed unit in 2026 possibly in collaboration with the Marine Village School.

Children's Programing – Kathy/Debra

- Eileen Devine and Kathy S represented the library at the Marine Mills Folk School Celebration Day earlier this spring, and hosted an informational table.
- Summer Camp is full for both weeks, and all presenters are established. We will need adult volunteers for all days.
- Family Fun Day will occur on Saturday, June 7 from 10-noon. Miss Nina will sing and tell stories, there will be a scavenger hunt for all ages with a book prize for the participation of children in the group. Kathy S. will spend $200 for books to give away at this event.
- We will provide Summer Reading Incentive sheets for Washington County Libraries and the Stillwater Public Library.
- Summer Story Times at the Gazebo will be held from 10:30 to 11:30 on Thursdays beginning June 26 through August 7 except for July 3. We are looking for more readers for these events.

Collections – Debra

- Since Jan 1, $511 for children's/teens, and $1031 for adult books have been ordered. We are beginning to weed the adult collection.

Communications – Elaine

- Thanks to Elaine, Sue, and all others involved in the creation of the new logo!
- Registration for dinner and children's camp went smoothly, and PayPal is now working well with the Google form.
- We are QR code-capable, and it would be nice to start having QR codes included on posters, and in the library window for various events.

Finance and Fundraising – Kathy

- We may be getting $1200 back from Brown Paper Tickets who did not return registration fees they collected for us from the 2020 cancelled Summer Camp.

Operations – Mary

- The City of Marine is hoping to complete the transfer of cable wire from the outside book lockers to the MIDCO modem inside by the end of May.
- We still need volunteers to monitor the Little Free Library in Lilleskogen park in Scandia.
- The library will be open extra hours on May 1, from 4-6 p.m., for the City of Marine Open House.

Outreach – Deb

- We are planning a book delivery service to the Stugas, hopefully beginning this fall. We will work with the Student Liaison to the board to head this initiative, and involve Stugas residents who are active library volunteers. Insurance considerations are still being worked out for car delivery of books.
- We are planning to purchase a pop-up tent for booths at farmer's markets and similar events that can be set up easily by one person. We will also need to update our signage with the new logo. We believe these events are important for the library to do, and our visual presence needs a bit of "polishing!"

- We are planning on participating in the Marine 4th of July parade, with our sandwich boards highlighting various programs, book marks to hand out, and temporary tattoos with our new logo.

Strategic Planning – Laurie

- no report for this meeting

Other Business - Lynn

- The library is a part of the Marine Mills Non-profit Alliance, and we have created a list of non-profits and contact info. We will be hosting a meeting with the Scandia Heritage Alliance to share information across non-profits in the area.
- Lynn is asking for a small group of volunteers to discuss priorities for our limited resources of space in our current location.
- The high school liaison position on the board is open for this fall, and we are forming a more structured description of what is expected in order to attract applications from interested students. Lynn was wondering if a scholarship could be included with the position. The Outreach committee felt this would be a good connection to what we are already doing, so they will take this on.

Brief Board Educational Information/Discussion and Review of Mission/Vision Statement Successes or Opportunities

- Logo is a success! New chairs are a success!

Adjournment and confirmation of next meeting date

Next board meeting:
June 16, 2025 7:00 p.m.
Adjourn time 8:19 p.m.