MarLA Board Meeting
February 17, 2025 (MCL)
7:00 p.m.

Members Present:
Lynn Bjorkman, Deb Yanker Black, Mary Burke, Janice Hunton, Elaine Larson, Annie Minnich, Laurie Schmidt, Kathy Scoggin, Kathy Trombly-Ferrin

Members Absent:
Debra Mitts Smith, Addie Smitten

Also Present:
Liz Kelly

Agenda

Welcome and Call to Order – Lynn

Reading of Land Acknowledgement Statement – Lynn

Reading of Vision Statement - Lynn

Board Membership Vote

- Resignation of Molly Arnason due to job change.
- Vote to approve new candidates Liz Kelly and Jim Maher. Lynn moved to accept the nominations of both new board candidates, Laurie seconded, all approved. Congratulations Liz and Jim!

Secretary's Report – Janice

- Minutes of December 16, 2024 meeting were presented.
- Discussion: none
- Lynn moved to approve the minutes, Elaine seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report – Kathy

- Review of current financials.
- Review of CDs and checking. Moved a maturing CD from E. Jones to Security State Bank for a 9 month CD with an advantageous return.
- Final 2024 budget results, came well under budgeted expenditures for the year, raised more funds than projected, ending in a healthy financial position for the year.
- Review and approval of 2025 operating budget, some committee moneys are increased from 2024, projected income can cover these increases easily. Lynn moved to approve the 2025 budget as proposed, Mary seconded, all approved.
- Authorization to file the State of Minnesota Charitable Organization Annual Report for the previous year, reflecting 2024 year-end financials. Lynn moved to approve close out the 2024 financials, Kathy S seconded, all approved.
- At our next meeting Lynn will present the updated Fundraising Report and a proposal related

to moving a portion of a maturing CD into a sister "sub-fund" with St. Croix Valley Foundation that would allow donors to send endowment gifts directly to the St. Croix Valley Foundation for the MCL endowment.
- Authorization to request grant from Marine Library Endowment of earnings to be transferred to checking for 2025 operating expenses. Lynn moved to approve, Deb seconded, all approved.
- Authorization to request grant from Jordan Bequest of earnings through Washington County, to be transferred to checking for 2025 operating expenses. Lynn moved to approve, Kathy TF seconded, all approved.
- Approved in virtual email vote, January 15th, to act as Fiscal Agent for Arrow Broken Poetry Collective.

Other Business - Lynn

- Review of 2025 Library Calendar, add collection feature for Native American Heritage month in November, Wooden boat event in July.
- Replacement of upholstered chairs, two new chairs will be available in March!
- Scandia Heritage Alliance membership from Marine, Loralee DiLorenzo will meet with them.
- Janice will look into the Adopt-A-Highway section south of Marine to see if it is available and if we have the resources to maintain it.

Committee Reports

Adult Programming

Programs

- Our final program, with Judy Stern, was lightly attended (about 30). Author Leif Enger was scheduled, but had to bow out due to some medical issues. We will rebook him when the Village Hall is available.
- With a forced recess from programs due to the Village Hall restoration, we plan to meet in early March to not only discuss program ideas, but also what our governing philosophy should be on programs moving forward. We're looking to nail one or two bigger names each year, if we can.

Doc Night

- A good year wrapped up on Feb. 15th with the Oscar-nominated short documentaries. We are talking about whether to expand film offerings next year beyond doc night, perhaps to show a few other genres of movies. Our new setup makes this much easier and cheaper to consider. But still would require an investment to rent films.

Technology

- The new screen, projector and sound system are great and it's making setup for doc night and programs much easier. We are concerned about the old sound board, and are exploring options to replace it.

River Radio

- Our show with Rick Steves was, unsurprisingly, our most listened to show of the year. On February 22, Keith Ellison will be our guest to talk over his office's response to the Trump administration initiatives. The next show is March 15th, and we plan to do 3-4 more shows per season. Getting Rick Steves whetted our appetite to shoot for bigger-name guests.

Art

- The current display is of people's pet pictures. Tammy is meeting with Mary B. and Laurie S to talk about a show related to library fundraising before scheduling the next program.

Beyond Land Acknowledgement (BLA)

- Adult Program (est. Sept. 2025) Ed Flemming, Science Museum Curator of Anthropology regarding Native archeological "finds" on the banks of the Saint Croix in September with an emphasis of what we know about the people who lived there.
- Children's Program (Summer Camp) Author Colleen Baldrica "Tree Spirit Woman" (Chippewa Member – White Earth Reservation https://colleenbaldrica.com) and Kathy Scoggin are in discussion regarding a Native-themed unit for the summer camp.
- Plans are in the works for field trips, such as visit to Sioux Chef restaurant.
- BLA webpage updated to include recent efforts. Permission was given to use local photographer Rudi Hargesheimer's image of the Saint Croix River on webpage instead of stock photo.
- We hope to feature Native authored/themed Book Reviews on the website.
- Scandia Heritage Alliance Indigenous Partner Team Representative is Liz Kelly. Goals: obtain a Legacy grant from the Minnesota Historical Society to explore resources on Indigenous history, culture, and way of life in the St. Croix Valley - Stillwater to Taylors Falls; write an annotated bibliography; and create a research plan for Phase 2 of a research project; obtain a second Legacy grant to conduct a full research project on Indigenous history, culture, and way of life in the St. Croix Valley - Stillwater to Taylors Falls.
- 2025 Poetry Cohort will be offered by Rosie Peters for six months beginning in March 2025, and conclude with a poetry reading at the Brookside. The class is open to 12 students, and registration was full within 24 hours. Since Rosie did not receive her grant, MCL will purchase three poetry and writing books for each student.
- 2024 Poetry Cohort, who have named themselves Arrow Broken Poetry Collective, published a poetry chapbook, which was available at Arrow Broken's first open mic poetry evening at the end of January.
- The Library Board unanimously (via virtual email vote) approved a request to act as Fiscal Agent for the Arrow Broken Poetry Collective as a part of their grant application to the St. Croix Valley Foundation's Arts Initiative Grant Program.

Children's Programing – Kathy/Debra

- The Children's Committee will represent the MCL at the Marine Mills Folk School Family Day on March 2.
- Summer Camp: We will keep the cost for families the same as last year ($65 - full or partial scholarships will be offered and honored upon request), posters have been designed, and registration was announced on River Radio starting on 2/8. It will be the weeks of June 9 and June 16, held at MVS. Both weeks are for children ages 6-9. As always, there will be a mixture of arts and sciences, including a field trip to Gammelgarden this year.
- The January and February Family and PJ Story time events will have been held by the Board meeting date. These remain very popular. We decided to take a hiatus as the building is under renovation - unless the current organizers want to come up with their own alternative site.

- MVS School visits and check-out days continue to go well. We dedicated the Children's Book shelf in the front of the library to eco/river books in partnership with the MVS and their planned Read-A-Thon theme for February.
- We are also in the beginning stages of planning a Summer Family Event, possibly June 7 or 14. We are working with the idea of a Marine Scavenger Hunt, prizes may include book give-aways and cones from the Ice Cream Shop. Possible entertainment will depend on what we can find available for our dates.
- There will be no Summer Reading program sponsored by us this summer - we will direct them to the Washington County programs. We haven't had enough takers to make it worthwhile.

Collections – Debra

- Our January meeting produced a healthy list of proposed new additions, and at least $1000 as been spent so far on additions to the adult collection.
- Sarah Rotunda is interested in joining the collection committee.

Communications – Elaine

Recent Activities

- Publicity and website updates for River Radio, Documentary Nights, Family Fun Nights, Judy Stern author talk, Oscar Night.
- Publicity and website updates for Rosie Peters' Poetry Cohort Class registration.
- Publicity, website update, registration forms for the 2025 Science and Art Camp. Google forms were again used for registration, which worked well. Setting it up so that payment comes after camp spots are confirmed makes it very simple to offer camp scholarships.

In progress

- Logo update project: Lynn Bjorkman hosted a meeting with Loralee DiLorenzo, Sue Knapp and Elaine Larson attending. Many ideas were generated, and Sue Knapp has done quite a bit of work. We plan to present logo options and details of implementation at the April Board meeting.
- Revisions to the Beyond Land Acknowledgement page on the website. There is a new photo on the page, and resources and book reports to come.

Finance and Fundraising – Kathy

- No additional report.

Operations – Mary

Recent Activities

- Immediate issue with the outside Washington County book locker was solved. For a long term solution, the City Public Works staff has offered to update the wire connection from the book-drop to the MIDCO modem when the weather warms up.
- The City Public Works staff will fix the discolored ceiling tiles in the library when they have time.
- Gene DiLorenzo reprogrammed the library thermostat to reflect open and closed hours.
- We trained three new volunteers in February.

Current issues

- We need to find a resource to connect the two remaining Levelor shades in the two narrow line windows in the library.
- The outer plastic cover broke off the outside key holder, most likely because of the cold weather. The key holder still works, and we will have to monitor it to make sure the combination face continues to work effectively.
- The outside key holder is hard to see when it is dark out. The overhead sensory light supporting the Washington County equipment really does not shine over by the key holder, making it a challenge for volunteers to see the combination pad. Solution is to look for some sort of light to mount above the key holder.

Outreach – Deb/Janice

- The Outreach Committee has been hibernating. We will be meeting soon to plan the upcoming year.

Strategic Planning – Laurie

- No further report

Notes

- Library Success story or point of connection, Mary related a story about second grader Ray, who is fascinated with fire trucks. Ray has been successful this year in school, and wrote a thank you note to city staff who let him come up into the fire truck.

Adjournment and confirmation of next meeting date

Next board meeting:
Monday April 21, 2025 7:00 p.m.
Adjourn time 8:31 p.m.