Draft Minutes
MarLA Board Meeting
June 16, 2025 (MCL)
7:00 p.m.

Members Present:
Lynn Bjorkman, Deb Yanker Black, Mary Burke, Janice Hunton, Liz Kelly, Elaine Larson, Jim Maher, Annie Minnich, Laurie Schmidt, Kathy Scoggin, Debra Mitts Smith, Addie Smitten, Kathy Trombly-Ferrin

Members Absent:

Also Present:

Agenda

Welcome and Call to Order – Lynn

Reading of Land Acknowledgement Statement – Lynn

Reading of Vision Statement - Lynn

Secretary's Report – Janice

- Minutes of the April 21, 2025 meeting were presented.
- Discussion: none
- Jim moved to approve, Deb seconded; minutes were unanimously approved

Treasurer's Report – Kathy

- Review of financials: at the end of May, we show a positive financial position, with 212k in current assets, 30% in cash, and the remainder in CDs and investments. We will continue our relationship with security state bank and Edward Jones. Next action steps include deciding what to do with the CD maturing at end of June. We will initiate a draw down from Jordan bequest of 11k.

New Business - Lynn

- Outreach Committee Proposal for High School Scholarship/Board Liaison role (Janice, Deb, Annie): Discussion, is $500 small for this type of scholarship? Addie says the range for similar scholarships is $250 to $2k, so $500 seems good. Deb moved to accept the concept and the $500 scholarship, Annie seconded, all voted in favor. The senior scholarship packets for SAHS come out in January, which is not a good fit for this year, and they are also only intended for HS seniors. So, we are going to send an announcement to school counselors, put an ad in the Country Messenger, and put something on our website to help get the word out for this fall.
- Board Membership Term Limits (Jim): we currently have term limit in bylaws of six years for board members, and we're wondering if this is a good limit and one we wish to keep. Discussion: What is typical for other boards? Have we ever moved to keep a person longer than

the 6 years? Do we have the flexibility to keep someone longer than 6 years if they want to or if they were working on a long-term project they don't want to leave? Sentiment was that the term limits are effective in maintaining fresh ideas and connections on the board, and we should keep them.

- Library Space Planning:
  - Digital resources: Sara Rotunda is exploring ways for our patrons to leverage digital resources, such as audio books through Libby and DVDs from area libraries. We could hold info sessions, website instruction pages, and signs in the library with instructions.
  - New fixtures: Janice presented options for new shelving and storage, comparing custom-built fixtures from Jeff Black and ready-made fixtures from Demco. Unanimous agreement that Jeff's proposal was the direction to head, since the total was less expensive, we would get exactly what we want, and the fixtures would match the cabinets he built for us several years ago. Jeff said he could have these ready to install in August of this year, which is another plus! Total cost for all fixtures is $9,150. Kathy S moved to approve this amount, Kathy TF seconded, all approved.

Committee Reports

Adult Programming –

- We're coordinating with Arrow Broken to host the Poetry nights the last Thursday of the month, through September. Jim suggests we do a mail chimp to get the word out.
- We're coordinating with the Beyond Land Acknowledgement team for their September event.
- We're hosting, with Bill Simpson, Kevin Nyenhuis and Curt Moe, the Paddlecraft Show on July 8. Rosie will have a poetry cohort reading poems about the river.
- We're working on filling out our fall programs lineup with author events.
- Doc Night plans to kick off in October, with 4-5 events this season. One non-doc film of interest, Holy Communion, based in Scandia, from a local film maker is being considered in addition to the documentaries. Kathy TF is in it briefly, and she says it is creepy, funny, interesting, there is language, probably R rated, city was upset about that with other films, so we need to check it out with them.
- Art Displays are on hold for now pending solutions for more secure gallery areas. With the approval of the new fixtures, secure gallery space should be available beginning this fall.
- River Radio is on summer break, with plans to start Season Seven in the fall.

Beyond Land Acknowledgement – Liz

- Owamni Restaurant Excursion April 27, 2025, very successful and enjoyable.
- History and Science Come Together, adult program September 22, 2025. Ed Flemming and Cheyanne St. John co-presenters.
- Children's program July 10, 2025, Author Colleen Baldrica "Tree Spirit Woman"
- BLA is exploring the idea of hosting author Tara Perron, Blue Hummingbird Woman, for a Native-themed program next year with the Marine Village School.

Children's Programing – Kathy/Debra

- Finished up the school year with MVS visits. We had a much lower overdue rate than last year and are working on following up with the remaining overdue books. The school is looking forward to next year and putting together a "wish list" of books that will be helpful to their

needs for us to purchase with the monies from the Rotary Club grant. Thanks to all the Library Volunteers who help make this happen throughout the year!

- We had a successful Summer Kick-off Family Event on the first Saturday of June. Miss Nina thoroughly entertained the pre-school set and their families. The weather cooperated beautifully. Family Scavenger hunts were offered at two levels (for younger children and older children). All child participants received a book at the library as a reward upon completion. About 70 visitors were recorded at the library that Saturday.
- Summer Thursday Storytimes are set to begin the week of June 26th. We have a full roster of readers and craft times will be offered with the reading sessions as well.
- The first week of Science and Arts Summer Camp has wrapped up. We had 16 children, 3 volunteer teenage helpers, a host of library volunteer helpers and a well-rounded schedule of arts and science experiences. Many positive comments from the kids and their families. Week two is this week with another 15 students and a combo of repeat presenters and new experiences.
- We would like a sign to put up on 95 when the library has events, much like the Marine Mills folk school and the ice cream shop.

Collections – Debra

- $739 spent this year so far on additions to the children's collection, $1590 for additions to the adult collection,
- We removed 50-60 books from the collection, which had no or minimal checkouts since 2020, or with publication dates prior to 2010.

Communications – Elaine

Recent Activities

- The new Marine Community Library logo was introduced on May 1st! That day, the website and Facebook page were updated to the new logo, and new bookmarks were handed out at the Library. Since then, other materials have been updated with the new logo and color palette. The transition has been moving along smoothly thanks to Sue Knapp's talent and hard work.
- Publicity and website updates for River Radio shows, Summer Kick-off event, Summer Storytime, Paddlecraft Boat Show and Arrow Broken Poetry Collective.
- Helped with registration for the Land Acknowledgement field trip to the Owamni Restaurant. There were changes up until the last minute, but all seemed to work out well.

In progress

- Continuing work on the phases of incorporating the new logo. This includes changes to spine labels, volunteer name tags, interior signage and more.
- Assisting with preparation for the MCL Student Liaison position. Created an email address to be used for book requests – order@marinecommunitylibrary.org
- We plan to create a google form for the student liaison application.
- We'll be creating materials for River Radio publicity, including signage and a poster template for future shows.

Finance and Fundraising

- no report for this meeting

Operations – Mary

- Trained one new volunteer

- We removed and decommissioned some furniture and rearranged current furniture, with the goal of living in the current floor plan to see if it works and make adjustments if needed.
- Still working with City Maintenance Workers, Washington County and MIDCO to rewire cable from book-lockers to inside modem.
- We need a board volunteer to help monitor Lilleskogen Kids library. Specific need is for August and September.

Outreach

- Sandwich Poster boards have old logo, need to be changed for 4th of July parade, we need volunteers to walk in the parade, or should we not be in the parade this year? We will send out a sign up genius? Jan will help organize it, Jim will be in the parade
- Stugas program pilot this summer, launch this fall, working out technical difficulties with the website and a new email for this program.
- Scandia farmers market, one day per month. Annie is organizing these events.

Strategic Planning

- no report for this meeting

Other Business - Lynn

- Review of 2025 Library Calendar - next big push is fundraising.

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

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Adjournment and confirmation of next meeting date

- Next meeting is one week later than usual due to several conflicts.

Next board meeting:
August 25, 2025
Adjourn time 8:38 p.m.