Draft Minutes
MarLA Board Meeting
December 15, 2025 MCL
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Lynn Bjorkman, Mary Burke, Janice Hunton, Elaine Larson, Jim Maher, Annie Minnich**,** Eloise Powell, Laurie Schmidt, Kathy Scoggin, Kathy Trombly-Ferrin

Members Absent:
Liz Kelly, Deb Yanker Black, Debra Mitts Smith

Also Present:
Rebecca Otto, Christi Schmitt

Agenda

Welcome and Call to Order – Lynn

Reading of Land Acknowledgement Statement – Lynn

Reading of Vision Statement - Kathy TF

Secretary's Report – Janice

- Minutes of the October 2025 meeting were presented.
- Discussion: none
- Laurie moved to approve, Elaine seconded; minutes were unanimously approved

Treasurer's Report – Kathy

- Review of financials - healthy balance maintained, maturing CD was renewed.
- Budget VS actual - current net position is in the negative, but not concerning due to expected income coming in December.
- Projected budget - we have received budget proposals from most committees, and we will adopt the new budget at the February meeting.

New Business - Lynn

- Library Board succession update, officer roles. Bylaws state up to 11 board directors, we need to reduce our board by one member to be in compliance. Officer roles will be voted on at the next meeting.
- St. Croix Valley Foundation grant opportunity - amazing opportunity for our organization to apply for this grant. Jim, Mary, and Lynn met with Cecily Harris to discuss this grant. The deadline is rolling on a quarterly basis.
- Library Village Hall reservations - Rental agreement required for every event; Cancellations must be communicated to City staff; Our commitment is to "leave it better than your found it"

Committee Reports

Adult Programming –

- Events for 2026 are still in the planning stages. Arrow Broken and Doc Night are major players in adult programming. We are anticipating a few other events as well.
- Doc Night continues to have the intended effect of spurring community engagement and conversation. All events this fall have been well attended.
- River Radio is reaching more listeners than ever before, and the season will continue following a brief holiday break.
- Art Exhibits - the work of Donna Zittel remains in the library. Shows for 2026 are TBD, and may include work of our curator Tammy Newcomb.

Beyond Land Acknowledgment -

- Adult program planned for the summer of 2026 with John Beheler, author/educator/artist
- Land Acknowledgment statement revision is under consideration to shorten it for certain contexts.
- BLA hopes to recruit more members for its committee
- The Big Read for 2026 is The Seed Keeper by local writer Diane Wilson. Jim mentioned to ArtReach that we can offer space for an event if needed.

Children's Programing – Kathy

- Family Fun nights are mostly very well attended. Presenters influence audiences. The one family night that was not well attended conflicted with an event at the school. Lesson learned!
- School visits every other week continue to go well.
- Readers visit the school once a month and read to the K-1 grades.
- Halloween open house was fun, until it started to rain.

Collections –Lynn

- A large order was placed in November, all categories had sizable additions.

Communications – Elaine

Recent Activities

- Publicity and website updates for Documentary Nights, River Radio, and Family Fun Nights
- Loralee and Sue Knapp have developed Doc Night and River Radio graphics for MailChimp emails that are better for phone-sized reading.

In progress

- Signage – updates and new ideas! The committee discussed 2026 signage needs with Lynn Bjorkman: banner, replacement for outdoor sandwich board, outdoor "event here" sign, signs for Outreach, display of Land Acknowledgement statement, changes to event signage in Library. Sue Knapp will provide cost estimates.
- Board transition – Elaine will be dropping off the Board in February (but will continue with Communications activities). The Communications committee will need some kind of liaison to the Board.

- This is an excellent time to update Communications documents, including procedures and account information, and load them onto the MCL OneDrive.
- Beyond Land Acknowledgement event information MailChimp emails – work with BLA on this new initiative to send information about upcoming Indigenous-related events bi-annually.

Finance and Fundraising – Kathy

- No update this meeting

Operations – Mary

- Scandia Little Libraries Support - The Scandia little libraries were designed with the goal that the MarLa Board would help support the monthly maintenance of the Lilleskogen Park little library and Scandia Community Center little library. Should the MarLA Board continue to support this effort alone, or should we open up the invite to the larger sign-up-genius library volunteer group to help support? Discussion: instructions are clear, and the tasks are easy for all volunteers to do. We will invite our wide array of volunteers to commit to visiting the little free library for 2026.
- Issue with Washington County Self Checkout Machine - Due to two power outages in downtown Marine recently, we have had issues with the Washington County self checkout equipment to stop working. Mary Burke is working with Washington County IT Specialists to resolve and work on future preventive measures. The outages have caused some pain points for our patrons wanting to check out their Washington County books, but we do offer a solution for the patrons.
- The programmable thermostat is being changed by volunteers, so Mary will provide clear instructions about how to do this safely and efficiently.

Outreach – Annie/Janice

- Stugas progress - Eloise. Some orders two weeks ago. After the holidays Eloise wants to visit each resident to see if they are aware of the program and if they have any questions.
- SWAG quote - Annie. Sue Knapp gave us a quote for pricing for tote bags and t-shirts, one color and multi-color. Do we offer volunteers bags at no or reduced cost? Mary B has lists of all volunteers. The Board liked the idea of tiered SWAG in which long-term volunteers (5 years +) would receive a complimentary bag, and volunteers under 5 years would be offered a discount.
- Volunteer appreciation event Sunday January 11, 2-4 pm. Sign-up genius invite for board helpers to help set up and take down for this event
- Need more committee members to continue our work.

Strategic Planning – Laurie

- Recruiting board volunteers - Laurie and Lynn have been working on a way to capture the qualities and experiences that are helpful for board members to have, and what we need as we envision the future.

Other Business - Lynn

- Review of 2025 Library Calendar - Lynn invited edits and additions to the calendar.

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

- After the Beyond Land Acknowledgement event in September with Diane Wilson, a librarian sent us an email that was very complimentary about the event and our vibrant programing.

Adjournment and confirmation of next meeting date

- Next Board Meeting – Monday, February 16th, 2026 at 7 pm

Next board meeting:
February 16th, 2026
Adjourn time 8:17 p.m.