

March 19, 2024

The Marion Public Library Board of Trustees met Tuesday, March 19, at 6 p.m. in the second floor Library Program Room of the Marion Public Library. Present were Dr. Case, Mrs. Pogue, Mrs. Nicholson, Ms. Sumpter and Mr. Cline. Jonie Riddle and Mary Eckerle were also present. Mr. Gilmore was absent. There were no viewers on zoom.

Library Board President Cindy Ketcham called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

On motion of Mr. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Pogue, the minutes of the February 20, 2024, was unanimously approved.

On motion of Mr. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson, the Treasurer's report and payment of the docket were unanimously accepted and payment authorized. The register of claims is made as a part of these minutes.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$3,327,189.36 in the Library Operating Fund as of February 29, 2024

Business:

Finances: Currently, the State Board of Accounts is auditing (called an "Engagement") the Library. This is conducted virtually but SBOA auditors will come on sight if needed and also will come to Marion for the exit conference.

Library Director: The new library director, Jaime Pitt, will start on Monday, April 15.

Eclipse: Several events are planned during March and early April in advance of the April 8 Eclipse. Mary Eckerle providing information on what is happening within the community and in the Library. The Library will be closed on Monday, April 8 from 2:45 pm to 3:15 pm so that staff can view the Eclipse.

Director Search: On motion of Ms. Ketcham, seconded by Mr. Gilmore, the Board unanimously approved the job offer to Jaime Pitt for library director. She will be compensated \$68,500 annually. She will begin work on April 15, 2024.

Property Sale Request: Mary Eckerle and Jonie Riddle responded to an inquiry about library property on Boots Street. At this time, the Board will not consider selling property.

General Motors grant: Kelsey Winters and Mary Eckerle have had two conversations with the Placemaking people. There is a timeline for the project and there will be a site visit, Focus group meetings, and community workshops during April and May.

National Library Week: The following information comes from the American Library Association: The theme for National Library Week 2024, "Ready, Set, Library!," promotes the idea that in our always-online world, libraries give us a green light to something truly special: a place to connect with others, learn new skills, and focus on what matters most. Find your crew at your library's author talks, workshops, and book clubs.

No matter where you find yourself on the roadmap through life's journey—preparing for a new career, launching a business, or raising a family—your library provides an inclusive and supportive community where everyone belongs.

Marion Public Library will have the Eclipse event on Monday of National Library Week. On Tuesday, there will be a small reception with music for patrons in the late afternoon. Friday and

Saturday of that week are Book Sale days. There will also be tours of the History Center on Friday.

OCLC: Marion Public Library used OCLC for cataloging for many years before switching to SkyRiver during Covid. Kristen Gioe, The Head of Technical Services feels it would be beneficial to switch back to OCLS. Its services are more robust. It will make our holdings more available and assist in our interlibrary loan lending. The cost will be around \$6,000 per year. On motion of Mr. Cline, seconded by Ms. Sumpter, the Board unanimously approved moving back to OCLC and discontinuing SkyRiver.

DAR Charter: Ms. Sumpter initiated discussion about having the Daughters of the American Revolution, General Francis Marion Chapter's charter be housed at the Library, History Center, or the Jay House. After discussion, it was decided that Mrs. Eckerle would provide her with the donation policy and procedures and then it can be determined where the best placement would be.

I. Director's Report

Materials and Services: Statistics will be presented at the meeting.

Staff: a) Collen Cramer submitted a letter of resignation effective June 1. He will begin a PhD program at UCLC this fall. This summer, he will be on an archaeological dig in Turkey.

Travel and Meetings: Indiana Genealogical Society 2024 Conference and Seminar, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, April 19-20. Mileage.

Properties: This past month, along with his other many duties, Roger Marx has been creating the "Eclipsulator" – Eclipse Simulator. The Eclipsulator allows "kids" to manually move a moon shadow across a large map showing the path of totality, with a goal of following the marked path with the shadow. The controls work similar to an Etch-A-Sketch with lateral and vertical controls which can be moved together to make a diagonal movement. When completed, this will reside in the Children's department.

Circulation: 1) During February, there were 75 new adult cards and 14 new children's cards. In addition, many people updated their library cards; and 2) Circ staff are weeding the DVD collection. DVDs that have not checked out for three years were weeded from the collection. These items will be sold at the upcoming Book Sale. The card catalog (online) reflects the status of missing items and weeded items.

Reference Services/Adult Programming: 1) February was Library Lovers Month as well as Black History Month and there were displays for Black History, NAACP, President's Day, Radios, Pizza, Embroidery, Chinese New Year, Norman Rockwell, Valentine's Day, and Finance/Financial Scams; 2) Regular programs included the Book discussion group, two craft programs, a Purdue Extension program, as well as the puzzle table and coloring sheets; 3) Sean Harnett has been posting weekly updates to the Library's Eclipse Facebook page; 4) The newest staff member, Aurora Hyde, is learning how to process the magazines and some other items; and e) all staff members will cross train in other departments before summer vacations begin.

Indiana History and Genealogy: 1) Update on the County records digitization project: Currently, 3917 record books and probate files have been uploaded to FamilySearch.org. FamilySearch has just released an experimental full text search on the US Probate and Will records that will allow researchers to search for any name in a document, not just the person that the record was about. This will search handwritten as well as typewritten documents and transcribe them as well. This is cutting edge technology and a real game changer for genealogy research. Indiana Room staff are attending a webinar on using this technology; 2) Mrs. Stoffer has contacted Newspapers.com about digitizing the Marion newspapers. More information will be coming but it looks promising that MPL will be able to get this done. Researchers have been asking for this for many years and it will be a game changer for the Indiana Room; and 3) Renee Bissell-Cole and Rhonda Stoffer will be attending the IGS annual conference in Fort Wayne on April 19 & 20. Emily Morris and Krystal Gosnell will be attending virtually. Mrs. Stoffer will be presenting a session on using

the new IGS website on Saturday, and Mrs. Bissell-Cole is on the ballot running for Recording Secretary of IGS. Mrs. Stoffer will be ending her board position as Past President but will remain a committee chair.

Technical Services: 1) Kristen Gioe is working on a weeding project with the Children's Department. The picture book collection is being weeded; and 2) MPL received a large order of nonfiction books. This should delight readers of that genre.

Children's/Youth Services: 1) The Grab and Go craft for February was a pizza valentine; 2) There were 17 programs in February; 3) The Justice Life Skills class visited and listened to stories and did a craft; 4) Margaret Peterson Haddix will be at MPL on Monday, March 18 at 5:30 pm. Books will be available for purchase and signing. Haddix is a MAJOR author; and 5) There will be a variety of activities during Spring Break. Also, a variety of activities before and during the Eclipse. Guest presenters include Loretta Tappan, Eclipse Ambassador and Teresa Roby, an interpreter from the Salamonie Reservoir. Fliers will be available at the meeting.

Museum: 1) The museum hosted a short documentary on Samuel Plato that was filmed by Taylor University students; 2) Collen Cramer has contacted the Field Museum in Chicago about securing an artifact of a beaver that once roamed Grant County; and 3) Collen Cramer met with Mike Halstead and Sam Jones to discuss a possible future Black History art exhibition.

Here is more detail on the last two items: The Field Museum has created a replica of a Giant Beaver jaw for the History Center. The jaw belongs to a Giant Beaver that was discovered in Fairmount in the early 1900s and sold to the Field Museum. The History Center helped provenance the Giant Beaver to the specific area in Fairmount where it was found, and we are interested in it because it represents a significant part of Grant County's natural history that we do not currently have in our collection.

Sam Jones and Mike Halstead are working on a monument on the north side of the Marion square. It will be a site of remembrance, equity, and cross-cultural understanding in Marion, Indiana which acknowledges the impact of the events and subsequent lynching that took place on August 6-7, 1930. As part of this monument, a public garden will be created across from the courthouse with a grafted fruit tree. Coinciding with this, Sam Jones and Mike Halstead are interested in featuring a Black history and culture art display in the History Center that can be integrated with the Early Twentieth Century Marion Black History exhibit. This display was previously featured in the Chicago Cultural Center and received national acclaim while it was there.

Teen Department: 1) Still seeing consistent attendance at D & D and it has been fun watching the group get more comfortable with one another and making friends; 2) There were a few teens who showed up for Teen Takeover, but Madisyn Timmons has had some interest in having the Teen Lounge be open at different times. If Ms. Timmons is available, she will allow a student to play the Switch for an hour under her supervision. She has also had some teens ask for games while they are here, and she is fine about that; and 3) Her displays included: Black Voices and Romances for Valentine's Day.

Network Manager: 1) There will be a new computer and printer for Jaime Pitt when she arrives as the new director; 2) Mr. Burritt is working on several computer issues that have turned up in the past two weeks; 3) New AWE computers are ordered for the Children's Department. There will also be new tables for the computers. This is a much-needed upgrade. The current tables will be used in other areas; and 4) There was a tornado drill on March 12 in keeping with the Statewide drill.

Marketing: 1) 23 Comfort Care kits were handed out in February. The community has been very generous in donating items to the kits. The *Chronicle-Tribune* featured the kits on the front page on March 14; and 2) Tylanna Jones and Jules had a phone conversation with author Margaret Peterson Haddix on WBAT's *Good Morning Grant County* on March 7.

AARP tax help: The tax preparers assisted 506 people in February with their taxes. This program has run smoothly thus far this year.

Candidate Forum: This will be held on Thursday, April 4 in Meeting Rooms A and B. Candidates for County Commissioner, County Council and the Superior Court 2 Judge Race are invited to attend.

Spring Book Sale: The Friends Spring Sale begins Friday, April 12, and will continue until most of the books are sold.

Community Outreach: 1) The Great Grant County Ambassador group used the Jay House in February. They enjoyed using the House for their meeting; 2) Radiant Health now has a Rapid Response team to assist someone needing immediate help and needs to be assessed. Staff may call their number for assistance.

Appreciations: "Hi Renee – Thanks again for the photos. Both James Foster McDowell and Judge Joh Brownlee, Fayette County, moved to Marion in 1838 and had interesting biographies. John helped frame Indiana's original constitution. His son, Hiram, was my grandmother's father. Her name, Bess Book Brownlee Freechy. Enclosed is my donation. With appreciation, Sarah Cooke." \$100 donation.

Adjournment/Next meeting: Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

President *Ruehann Stumpfer* Secretary

Diego Member *MJ* Member

Benjamin M. Mitchell

Jeremy Co

Cynthia Kitzler

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