

April 16, 2024

The Marion Public Library Board of Trustees met Tuesday, April 16, 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, Mr. Gilmore, and Mr. Cline. Jaime Pitt, Jonie Riddle and Mary Eckerle were also present. 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 Mr. Gilmore, the minutes of the March 19, 2024, was unanimously approved with one addition.

On motion of Mr. Cline, seconded by Ms. Sumpter, 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 3,020,551.69 in the Library Operating Fund as of March 31, 2024.

Business:

Finances: The State Board of Accounts audit (engagement) continues through April. Jonie Riddle and Mary Eckerle will report on this.

Policies: On motion of Mrs. Pogue, seconded by Ms. Sumpter, the Board unanimously approved the Application policy with no revisions and the Bed Bug policy with a few revisions.

Library Director: On motion of Dr. Case, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson, Jaime Pitt was unanimously recognized as the official Director of the Marion Public Library.

Signature cards change needed: As the new director, Jaime Pitt, needs to be placed on the signature cards for the banks and for Edward Jones. At the same time, Mary Eckerle needs to be removed from these cards. On motion of Mr. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson, the Board unanimously approved the addition of Jaime Pitt to all signature cards and the removal of Mary Eckerle. This action refers to the following accounts:

- Star Bank Library Operating Fund Account # 110-8324-3
- Star Bank Safety Deposit Box
- Horizon Bank Webster Gift Fund Account # 6165094
- Horizon Bank Gift Funds – Savings Account # 512051367
- Edward Jones

ARP City of Marion Grant: Mike Cline discussed the history of this grant process starting during the Mayor Alumbaugh administration. The current mayor, Ronald Morrell wants to distribute the funds soon and is open to proposing that the library/history center receive up to \$300,000. Mary Eckerle discussed some of the proposed projects. Cline said that the City Council will have to vote on the projects but hopes that MPL is able to be one of the grant recipients.

Center for Public Spaces/General Motors Grant: Mary Eckerle updated the Board on this grant. The team from the Center for Public Spaces plans to visit the MPL site on May 21-22-23 and possibly the 24th. The Board is fine if they give a 20 minute presentation at the May 21 meeting. They also intend to have some focus groups, community meetings, and other gatherings so that the public can have input in what they want the public space to look like.

Grant County Historical Society: The GCHS would like to request that Renee be re-appointed as the liaison to the Society. "Dear Mary: This letter is to inform you that the Grant County Historical Society requests that Renee Bissell-Cole be re-appointed to the Society from the Marion Public Library. Sincerely, Travis J. LeMaster, President." On motion of Mr. Gilmore, seconded by Mr. Cline, the Board unanimously reappointed Mrs. Bissell-Cole as GCHS liaison.

I. Director's Report

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

Staff: 1) Kelsey Winters will replace Collen Cramer as Head of Museum Services. Her title will be Head of Museum Services and Special Projects. She will start on June 1, 2024, when Mr. Cramer leaves; and 2) A Museum Assistant position will be posted so that person can begin work during the summer. Mary Eckerle discussed some of the proposed projects. Cline said that the City Council will have to vote on the projects but hopes that MPL is able to be one of the grant recipients.

Properties: The Magnificent, Grant, Magical, Mechanical Eclipsulator continues to be a big hit with families. Roger Marx is trying to figure out the next steps for this invention, but he is currently thinking about reinventing it for the Indy 500 race.

Circulation: 1) Garfield has been busy this month. Visitors came from Kentucky, Connecticut, Tampa, Florida, and Atlanta, Georgia. He (Garfield) even had a mask for the Eclipse; and 2) There were 56 new borrowers in March.

Reference Services/Adult Programming: 1) March was a busy month with several eclipse meetings and activities; 2) Rob Cartwright from Taylor University, gave a talk on the Science Behind the Eclipse; 3) The film *Hidden Figures* was shown; 4) There was an Eclipse-themed display in the glass case downstairs, as well as a space-themed book display upstairs. Space-themed puzzles were on the puzzle table; 5) Teresa Boucher visited the Library to teach another Bob Ross style painting class on March 8; 6) Sheri hosted the monthly book discussion group on the 13th and there were two craft times; g) Kailey Dockerty from the Extension office held the final part of a three-part series on getting rid of clutter; and 7) Other displays were on National Craft Month, St. Patrick's Day, Women's History, Finance/Financial scams, Ireland, Read Across America, Crochet, and telephones through the ages.

Indiana History and Genealogy: 1) Renee Bissell-Cole and Rhonda Stoffer will be attending the Indiana Genealogy Society 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; 2) IH is continuing the project with TS to standardize call numbers. Kristen Gioe and Olena Wash assisted on this project; 3) Mary Eckerle signed an agreement with Newspapers.com to digitize the Marion newspapers from 1867 to 2020. The Library will receive access to all of the digitized papers in exchange for allowing our film to be scanned. The papers will also be available by subscription on newspapers.com. Rhonda Stoffer is currently boxing the film to send it to them. There is not charge at all for this service and newspapers.com pays the shipping both ways and even provides the boxes to use; and 4) Update on the county records digitization project: Currently, 4,216 record books and probate files have been uploaded to FamilySearch.org. Rhonda Stoffer has been working with Family Search to digitize items held in the Indiana Room and Museum. Their legal team is currently going through the list from the Indiana Room and Collen Cramer's list from the museum. Any item that they decide not to add to the website will still be digitized by the local team and given to MPL on a flash drive for use.

Technical Services: 1) Kristen Gioe continues to work on the DVD collection as time permits; 2) She replaces cases, makes new labels, and makes new covers as needed; 3) She has started on the red sticker collection; and 4) Tylanna Jones and Kristen Gioe met with the Books Galore rep and picked nonfiction books for the collection.

Children's/Youth Services: 1) The Children's Department had 20 programs in March and 200 Grab and Go crafts; 2) Tylanna Jones visited Eastbrook North's preschool for Family Day and provided a storytime, craft, and a talk about the Library; Mrs. Jones visited Riverview Elementary School during Read Across America Week; 3) Madisyn Timmons visited the Training Center for Literacy Night; d) Allen School 2nd graders visited MPL for a field trip; 4) Margaret Peter Haddix spoke to 100 fans at MPL in March. She also autographed books. Haddix has written 50 books, most of which are geared to middle graders; f) There was a good turnout for the *Let's Learn about the Eclipse* program given by the Salamonie Interpretive Center; 5) Early Literacy Computers have arrived and await installation; and h) Book clubs continue through May with a break in the summer months.

Museum: 1) Colleen Cramer and Kelsey Winters met with Haley Anderson from the Grant County Convention & Visitors Bureau and with Wendy Puffer from Marion Design Company on collaborating on future displays; 2) The Field Museum in Chicago will send MPL's History Center a Beaver jaw replica. The original beaver is on display at the Field; and 3) Museum staff continue to plan future exhibits.

Teen Department: a) Dungeon & Dragons continues to attract new teens; b) Madisyn Timmons has opened the Teen Lounge at various times for teens to play the games for an hour at a time. She is working on building relationships with the kids; and c) March displays featured Strong Female Characters and Green Books for St. Patrick's Day.

Network Manager: Paul Burritt will be installing new AWE computers in the Children's area and also will set up the new director's computer and laptop.

Marketing: 1) The *Chronicle-Tribune* featured the Magical Grand Mechanical Eclipsulator in a cover story; and 2) Mary Eckerle was guest on WBAT in April.

AARP tax help: 1150 people received tax help during the months of February and March. The tax people will be at the History Center on April 15 to finish and then will remove equipment.

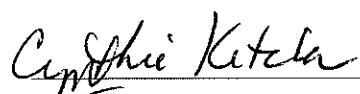
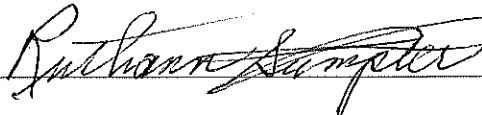
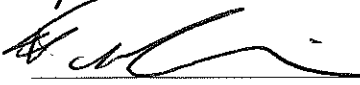

Candidate Forum: The April 6 Candidate Forum had 150 people and all twelve candidates were present. Two sheriff deputies looked over the room, but the event ran smoothly and, hopefully, people came out better informed about the candidates' positions on the issues.

Eclipse: MPL concluded a few weeks of Eclipse preparation and programs with the April 8 Eclipse program outside on the Library grounds. About 85 people showed up for eclipse glasses, children's crafts, Friend's t-shirt sales, and the big Watch event. It was a

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

Community Outreach: 1) The Children's Department is out at school and community events in April; and 2) Madisyn Timmons and Kelsey Winters will work with Radiant Health on the upcoming Mental Health night at Matter Park.

Adjournment/Next meeting: Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

 President  Secretary
 Member  Member
