

MINUTES OF THE MARSHALL PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD – March 11, 2026

Call to Order: The Marshall Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, in the Dale McConchie Meeting Room of the library. Vice President Herman Wallace called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. CST. Board members present were Jody Green, Janet Hasten, Bob Nelson, Steve Schofield, Jenn Smitley, Melissa Strait, and Herman Wallace. Director Alyson Thompson and Head Librarian Jamie Poorman were also present. John Tarble and Mike Cameron were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance: Herman opened the meeting by leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the February 11, 2026, meeting were reviewed. On a motion by Melissa, seconded by Steve, the minutes were approved.

Several items of correspondence had been received:

- A thank you note from the Antique Study Club for the help they received from Alyson and Stacy in setting up their display case exhibit
- A thank you from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library
- A copy of the Facebook post showing last month's Board photo
- Several hand painted bookmarks donated to the library by Molly Morecraft were shared

Presentation of the Bills: The invoices on the March bill listing were reviewed. On a motion by Jenn, seconded by Melissa, payment of bills in the amount of \$8,128.12 was approved with the roll call votes being recorded as follows: Melissa—yes; Jenn—yes; Jody—yes; Steve—yes; Bob—yes; Herman—yes; Janet—yes.

Librarian's Report: Jamie reviewed her report for February 2026. Twenty-two new patrons were added the past month, bringing the total to 3,019. Computer usage was 142; total circulation was 3,063; Facebook views were a record-breaking 167,319, and door count was 4,991. There were 716 special program attendees, and 87 uses of our meeting rooms.

Jamie noted that 1,000 seed packets had been received from Simply Gro, a small company in New Hampshire. Baker Creek Seeds sent a \$50 gift certificate. Twenty-six "Love Letters" were mailed in February which resulted in the return of 14 "lost" items.

Friends of the Library: The Friends met on March 5. They approved funding for the Big Read program, the Ancestry database, and books for our Halloween programs. They will hold their next meeting on May 7, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Marshall Area Public Library District Report: The Area District met on February 24. They retained Steven Greene as their new attorney and voted to fund the Gaslight Art Colony stained glass project (if needed) and the Turner Coaches for the Chautauqua event. They are scheduled to meet on April 28, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

Director's Report: Director presented color patterns and design to board about the restrooms, the board like color theme's presented and noted they trust Alyson's judgement on fixture selections. It was also discussed she would like to add the current budgeted restroom budget to the grant amount - which will be reflected on FY 2026/27 budget.

Alyson announced that two IL Humanities Road Scholars, Chris Vallillo and Brian "Fox" Ellis will be presenting programs at MPL during the Chautauqua event in June. She is working with Hyder Tech to apply for a Security Grant through ISL. The emergency stairwell lights are not working. Replacements for the drivers have been ordered. A 911 call was made on February 21 when a verbal altercation occurred between a group of teens and a parent. As a result, Travis Bachelor was banned from the library until May 1.

The various funding streams for Marshall Public Library were reviewed—tax monies, MAPLD contract, and donations from the City of Marshall. Marshall Public Library is unique in the way it is funded. No other library in IHLS is funded in this way.

Bank account balances as of the end of February were as follows: Operations--\$169,457.45; Retirement--\$10,000.00; Special Reserve--\$27,091.55; for a Total of \$206,549.00.

Old Business: John, Jenn, and Herman will collaborate to set a date for the Finance Committee meeting.

New Business: There were no closed session meeting minutes to review at this time.

Other: Alyson mentioned that she will be making the Library's Annual Presentation to the City Council on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. She encouraged all Board members to attend this presentation.

Adjournment: Steve made a motion, seconded by Melissa, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

The next meeting will be April 8, at 6:00 p.m. in the Dale McConchie Meeting Room of the Marshall Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Hasten, Secretary