

## MINUTES OF THE MARSHALL PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD – April 8, 2026

Call to Order: The Marshall Public Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, in the Dale McConchie Meeting Room of the library. President John Tarble called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. CDT. Board members present were Mike Cameron, Jody Green, Janet Hasten, Bob Nelson, Jenn Smitley, Melissa Strait, and John Tarble. Director Alyson Thompson and Head Librarian Jamie Poorman were also present. Steve Schofield and Herman Wallace were absent.

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

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

Several items of correspondence had been received. These included:

- Thank you notes from Monty Kennedy, the family of Tiff Macke, the family of Ken Smith and a young women's Bible study group
- A copy of "The Reporter", a magazine published by the Illinois Library Association, which contained an article entitled "Mobile Memory Lab." The article highlighted Marshall Public Library and our participation in their pilot program for this project. A photo of the Marshall Dog n Suds bowling team was also included in the article.

Officer's Reports: John noted that this was Bob Nelson's last meeting as a library trustee and thanked him for his service to the Board. Bob noted that the library was one of his daughter Taylor's favorite things about Marshall when they moved here 24 years ago. Alyson noted that Bob had been instrumental in implementing the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten project among his many other contributions to our Board.

Presentation of the Bills: The invoices on the April bill listing were reviewed. On a motion by Melissa, seconded by Mike, payment of bills in the amount of \$12,055.40, plus a \$2,000.00 add-on, to cover any expenses that may be incurred before the end of our fiscal year on April 30, was approved with the roll call votes being recorded as follows: Bob—yes; Jody—yes; Melissa—yes; Mike—yes; Jenn—yes; John—yes; Janet—yes.

Librarian's Report: Jamie reviewed her report for March 2026. Eleven new patrons were added in the past month, bringing the total to 3,017. Computer usage was 156; total circulation was 2,763; Facebook views were 120,906, and door count was 5,335. There were 801 special program attendees, and 98 uses of our meeting rooms. Our meeting rooms are in such demand that a new meeting space was designated in the elevator lobby. Alyson and Jamie are using a digital format now for scheduling calendar events and reserving meeting space, and it is working beautifully. Jamie noted that several memorials were made in the past month.

Friends of the Library: The Friends have not met since our last meeting. They will hold their next meeting on May 7, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Marshall Area Public Library District Report: The Area District did not meet this month. They are scheduled to meet on April 28, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

Director's Report: Alyson announced that Polaris is being phased out and that the staff has done a wonderful job of transitioning to the new LEAP system. She praised the City workers who have helped with numerous projects, one of which involved moving a 230 lb. plaque for the DAR Revolutionary soldier project. The Declaration 1776 exhibit was delivered and will be up for viewing soon and will be on display in conjunction with the visiting author presentations and spring school tours.

The ALA LTC: Accessible grant (\$20,000) was awarded, once monies are received they will be used to remodel our restroom facilities. The Illinois Art Council America 250 grant was approved for \$15,000. The stained glass window project at the Art Colony will be the recipient of this grant with other funding supplied by the Historic Preservation Committee Downtown Revitalization Grant (\$5,000), and a private donation of \$10,000. The AARP Tax Assistance program will be ending soon. Nearly 300 people will have benefited from this free service which is staffed by several local volunteers.

Bank account balances as of the end of March were as follows: Operations--\$136,836.40; Retirement--\$10,000.00; Special Reserve--\$44,091.55; for a Total of \$190,927.95. It was noted that \$9,000.00 was transferred into the special reserve fund since this is the end of our fiscal year. Also, \$8,000.00 was transferred into special reserve from the capital improvement building line item to be held there in reserve until needed for the restroom project.

Old Business:

New Business: Alyson presented the proposed budget for FY 2026-2027. Mike made a motion, seconded by Melissa, to adopt the \$395,000 budget as proposed. The motion was approved with the roll call votes being recorded as follows: Bob—yes; Jody—yes; Melissa—yes; Mike—yes; Jenn—yes; John—yes; Janet—yes.

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. A 2026-27 meeting schedule for the MPL Board and the Area District Board were distributed to trustees.

Adjournment: Melissa made a motion, seconded by Jody, that the meeting be adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

The next meeting will be May 13, at 6:00 p.m. in the Dale McConchie Meeting Room of the Marshall Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Hasten, Secretary