



MINUTES

Library Board

5:00 PM - Monday, February 16, 2026
Library, 1101 6th Avenue

The Library Board of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met on Monday, February 16, 2026, at 5:00 PM, with the following members present:

PRESENT: In Person: Am Thayer, Bob Hoyt, Bob Read, Julie Lammers, Kelsey Logan, Krystle Mullin, Melissa Alexander, Ross McIntyre (left early at 5:45 p.m.), Ryan Norton, Susan Kling
Via Zoom: Becky Garms

ABSENT: Informed Absence: Nancy Miller and Sabrina Beyer

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Carroll, Kimberly Cowger, Ashley Osborn, Bob Reynolds, Eddie Higgins

FRIENDS REP: Cheryl Kinnaird

GUESTS PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Board President, Ross McIntyre

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion to approve agenda as modified to include the Library Spotlight. **(Action Requested)**

Moved by Alexander, seconded by Mullin, to approve the Agenda as modified.
Approved unanimously

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

PUBLIC FORUM

This time is set aside for comments from the public. Please understand that the Library Board of Trustees will not take any action on your comments at this time due to requirements of the Open Meetings Law but may do so at a future meeting. You will have five minutes to address the Board.

LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Introduction of our new Patron Services Manager, Eddie Higgins.
Eddie started with MPL as a Part-Time Patron Services staff member, and became a

Full-Time Patron Services Lead before being selected as the Patron Services Manager.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the January 2026 Meeting minutes. **(Action Requested)**

Moved by Norton, seconded by Lammers, to approve the January 2026 Meeting Minutes as presented.

Approved unanimously

REPORTS

1. Friends of the Marion Public Library Report

- Cheryl Kinnaird presented that the Friends have discontinued their Lifetime Memberships and have gone to just yearly, five year, and sustaining memberships.
- Jo and Judy will be retiring as Friends Bookstore Managers.
- Next Friends Booksales will be April 17-19 and July 17-19.

2. Marion Public Library Foundation Report

- Hilery Livengood submitted a Foundation Report for Library Board of Trustee Members as she was absent from this meeting.

3. Board Continuing Education

- None to report.

4. Director's Report

- Budget Update
 - Revenue is at 71%. Addition revenue will be coming from Linn County, the amount from Linn County is based on circulation, so we often underestimate how much we might receive.
- Statistics Highlights
 - It was discovered that there were some missing Programming statistics from our Virtual Author Database in past months. Corrections will be presented next month.
- General Department Updates
 - Installation of drains for the Terrace doors has started.
 - Bigger weather guards were added to the fireplace vent.
 - Electricity will be turned off to the Library building for the Generator project on April 6th when the Library will already be closed for Spring Staff Training.

Motion to accept all reports 1 - 4 as presented. **(Action Requested)**

Moved by Mullin, seconded by Read, to accept Reports 1-4 as presented.

Approved unanimously

REGULAR AGENDA

1. State Library Board of *Trustee's Handbook* - Ch. 10 (*Discussion*) led by Kelsey Logan

- Discussion Question One: How do we hold the director accountable while still respecting their professional autonomy as the expert in the library functions?
 - Ryan Norton said we ask questions when we're all together for Board

Meetings.

- Julie Lammers stated that it's good to say "Help me understand..." rather than asking "Why?"
- Susan Kling commented that Bill Carroll has a lot of good experience to draw off of.
- Discussion Question two: As Bill often says, the staff of the library is our most important asset. How does the board know whether the director is building a positive work culture?
 - Krystle Mullin has always had positive interactions with staff.
 - Ross McIntyre has noticed camaraderie between staff.
 - Bob Read commented that if there were an issued, the Board would likely hear about it.
- Discussion Question three: How can we, as the trustees, encourage open and honest communication with the director, especially around challenging topics?
 - Ryan Norton commented that even while Bill was on vacation, things still ran smoothly at the library.
- Discussion Question four: Were there any surprises or good reminders within the chapter that you want to discuss?
 - Bob Hoyt commented that Bill Carroll creates a good environment here.

2. Library Board Treasurer Position (**Action Requested**)

- Bill Carroll reached out to Ryan Norton to inquire if he would be interested in being Library Board Treasurer. Though he's new to the Board, he does have a financial background.
- It was asked if anyone else had an interest in running for Library Board Treasurer, no one else volunteered to run, therefore election ballots were not needed. A roll call vote was taken instead.

Moved by Kling, seconded by Alexander, moved to appoint Ryan Norton as Library Board Treasurer.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: McIntyre, Thayer, Read, Mullin, Kling, Logan, Alexander, Lammers, Garms, and Norton

3. State Library Handbook Self Survey (*Discussion*)

- Ross McIntyre asked what items from the self survey stand out? Or what are you proud of?
 - Ryan Norton stated that everyone comes prepared.
 - Bob Read commented that the Board is a group, not 13 separate people with an individual agenda.
- Ross McIntyre asked what opportunities are there to do better in the future?
 - Krystle Mullin stated that she would like to learn more staff names and positions.
 - Bill Carroll mentioned that an Advocacy Committee never had a chance to form due to changes in Open Meeting Laws. But that an Advocacy Work Group could set goals for the Board.

4. Board Member Library Outreach Sign Up for Uptown Summer Markets (**Action Requested**) (multiple Board members needed for each date):

- a. Saturday, June 13 from 8 a.m. - noon
- b. Saturday, July 11 from 8 a.m. - noon
- c. Saturday, August 8th from 8 a.m. - noon

- d. Saturday, September 26th from 8 a.m. - noon
- A sign up sheet was sent around for Board Member volunteers.

ADJOURN

Moved by Alexander, seconded by Thayer, to adjourn at 5:47 p.m.
Approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted by:
Kimberly Cowger, Administrative Assistant