



MINUTES

Library Board

5:00 PM - Monday, January 19, 2026

Library, 1101 6th Avenue

The Library Board of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met on Monday, January 19, 2026, at 5:00 PM, with the following members present:

PRESENT: In Person: Amanda Thayer, Bob Hoyt, Bob Read, Julie Lammers, Kelsey Logan, Krystle Mullin, Melissa Alexander, Nancy Miller, Ross McIntyre, Ryan Norton, Sabrina Beyer
Via Zoom: Susan Kling

ABSENT: Becky Garms

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Carroll, Kimberly Cowger, Ashley Osborn, Bob Reynolds, Hilery Livengood

FRIENDS REP: None

GUESTS PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Board President, Ross McIntyre

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion to approve agenda as presented. **(Action Requested)**

Moved by Norton, seconded by Lammers, to approve the Agenda as presented.
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

1. New Board Member Introduction: Amanda Thayer introduced herself and Board Members introduced themselves to Amanda.
2. December Staff Milestone Anniversaries - One Year of Service - Marios Liolios

MINUTES

Motion to approve the December 2025 Meeting minutes. **(Action Requested)**

Moved by Alexander, seconded by Mullin, to approve the December 2025 Meeting Minutes as presented.

Approved unanimously

REPORTS

1. Friends of the Marion Public Library Report
 - No Report from Friends this month.
2. Marion Public Library Foundation Report
 - Hilery Livengood reported that additional funding for Children's Book Clubs was received from Rotary.
 - We are applying for a grant from the NEA for The BIG Read.
3. Board Continuing Education
 - None to report.
4. Director's Report
 - Budget Update
 - Revenue is at 66% for the year after receiving funds from The State Library for Open Access and ILL reimbursement.
 - General Department Updates
 - The laser etcher vent has been installed in the MakerSpace. Some final construction work must be completed before it is ready to use.
 - MLN Updates
 - MLN Directors have wondered if all mailed notices are necessary as postage rates keep going up.

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

Moved by Lammers, seconded by Logan, to accept Reports 2-4 as presented.

Approved unanimously

REGULAR AGENDA

1. State Library Board of *Trustees Handbook* - Ch. 9 (*Discussion*)
 - Kelsey Logan led the discussion on Chapter 9.
 - Discussion Question one: What does it look like in practice to implement a one voice relationship as a Board and with our Director?
 - Bob Read commented to have consistent messaging.
 - Ryan Norton commented that Board Meetings are our time to discuss ideas and settle on one decision.
 - Discussion Question two: How should we respond if staff or a community member tries to bypass the Director by coming to a Board Member, how should the Board respond?
 - Julie Lammers commented that there are probably protocols on how decisions were made. The Board should respond with one voice and discuss with the Director for feedback.

- Ryan Norton agreed that protocols are important but it's also good to listen as sometimes people just want to be heard.
- Bob Hoyt impressed the importance of getting contact information.
- Discussion Question three: How can the Board show the City that we're collaborative partners and not a separate entity?
 - Bill Carroll pointed out a number of ways that Board Members are already doing this. If we ever have an upcoming issue that the Board feels a City Council liaison would be good to have attend a Board Meeting, Bill can speak with them.

2. 2026 Plan of Service (**Action Requested** - Receive & File)

- Goals for 2026 based on our Strategic Plan. Some big ticket items include the Food Pantry and the All Community Read.

Moved by Alexander, seconded by Beyer, to receive and file the 2026 Plan of Service.

Approved unanimously

3. Board Self Assessment (*Discussion*)

- For next month, the Board is asked to read through the Individual Assessments and each come up with a couple of ideas to discuss in February. The other assessment will be discussed in March.

4. Outreach Opportunity/Sign Up - City Showcase on Saturday, April 18, 2026 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and Sign Up for Foundation and Friends Meetings in 2026 (**Action Requested**)

- Sign Up sheets were sent around for City Showcase and Friends and Foundation Meetings.

ADJOURN

Moved by Mullin, seconded by Norton, to adjourn at 5:57 p.m.

Approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted by:
Kimberly Cowger, Administrative Assistant