

Marion County Library Board Meeting Thursday,
April 11th, 2024 – 4:30 pm
Marion County Public Library

In attendance:

Seleta Rogers, Chair
Keisa Rembert, Vice Chair
Debbie Ford, Secretary
Roger Presnell, Treasurer
Cindy Haulk
Debby Ford
Jessica Rodriguez

Also: Alan Harkness, Director, CVL
Scott, MCLP Branch Manager
Lizette Cruz, Administrative Specialist

I. Call to Order

Chair Rogers called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM

II. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment

III. Approval of the minutes from October 12th, 2023

Chair Rogers asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 12th, 2023, meeting. The motion was made by Ford to accept the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Haulk. Passed unanimously by Rogers, Rembert, Ford, Presnell, Rodriguez and Haulk.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Manager Scott presented the treasurer's report. The present balance is \$20,936.31.

V. Director's Report

Director Alan Harkness presented the director's report. CVL was the first library system in Georgia to go fines free in 2019. Since then, a few other systems have gone fines free and another eight library systems will be implementing various versions of fines free very soon across Georgia.

The Ledger-Enquirer asked to come into the Columbus Public Library on the 3rd Thursday of April, May, June, July, and August of 2024. They will be available to the public to help them with whatever questions they may have about the paper or to discuss stories in the community.

The South Columbus Branch Renovation is scheduled to be completed by mid-August. The final cost will be around ten million dollars. Director Harkness invites everyone to come to the ribbon cutting. The Muscogee Library Foundation will be hosting a Block Party to celebrate the grand reopening.

Director Harkness would like the Marion Board to seriously begin to consider which grant they would like to begin to pursue, either a small renovation grant from the state or the larger reconstruction grant which requires them to raise \$100,000.00 for the state to grant them \$900,000.00. The Marion County Public Library needs to at least be updated with some renovations.

Senate Bill 390 was not passed. This is good news for public libraries.

VI. Local Library Report

Manager Scott gave her local library report. She wanted to inform the board of several issues that have popped up with the library building. One of the air conditioning units had begun giving trouble a few weeks ago and yesterday completely stopped working. With summer quickly approaching this needs to be repaired. There seems to be some kind of leak in a part of the roof over the computer area that needs to be addressed. The roof was replaced around 2015, so it should not be leaking, but Manager Scott needs to get someone in to access this issue asap before damage is caused to the computer equipment. The parking lot will also need to be resealed within the next year.

Summer programming and summer reading will begin soon. The staff will be attending several events to promote these activities. The library has begun outreach endeavors with Head Start. Patronage has risen and so has program attendance.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business

VIII. New Business

- i. **Chair Roger asked for a motion to add an item to the agenda. Item: Approve Manager Scott to acquire bids and decide on which bids to accept for the repairs to the roof and the air conditioning units.**

Haulk made a motion to add this item to the agenda. Rembert seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously by Rogers, Rembert, Ford, Presnell, Rodriguez and Haulk.

- ii. **Approve Manager Scott to acquire bids for roof and air-conditioning repairs and decide which bids to accept with a limit of no more than \$3,000 to be spent for the roof and \$3,000 for the air-conditioning repairs.**

Ford made a motion to approve Manager Scott to acquire and approve the bids with no more than \$3,000 each to be spent on the roof and air-conditioning unit. Haulk seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously by Rogers, Rembert, Ford, Presnell, Rodriguez and Haulk.

- iii. **Approve the FY25 Budget.**

Haulk made a motion to approve the FY25 budget as presented. Presnell seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously by Rogers, Rembert, Ford, Presnell, Rodriguez and Haulk.

IX. Chair Report

Chair Rogers did not have a report.

X. Board Education – None

XI. The board took some time to discuss strategies for renovation of the Marion County Public Library per the information presented by Director Harkness earlier in the meeting. After some robust discussion, the following was decided:

- i. Director Harkness will bring the request to the Regional Board to delegate to the Marion County Library Board and have them placed on the state construction list for the fall session.
- ii. The Marion County Library Board will set up a meeting or meetings with their local funding agencies and present a plan to begin raising funds for the local match needed to get the grant approval from the state.
- iii. Director Harkness will ask Hecht Burdeshaw Architects to come out to the Marion County Public Library to look at the building and give the board an idea of what could be done at the present site.
- iv. Manager Scott will reach out the local paper to print an article or announcement of what the Marion County Library Board wants to accomplishment with a renovation or reconstruction of the Marion Public Library once the meeting between the funding agencies has been established.

XII. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will take place on July 11, 2024.

XIII. The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM