

Marion County Library Board Meeting Thursday,  
October 9, 2025 – 4:30 pm  
Marion County Public Library

**In attendance:**

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

Also: Alan Harkness, Director, CVL  
Katie Burnett, Assist. Director of Public Services, CVL  
Bailey Carter, MCPL Branch Manager  
Mallie Brossett, CCPL Branch Manager

- I. Call to Order  
Chair Rogers called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM
- II. Public Comment  
There was no Public Comment
- III. **Approval of the minutes from June 12, 2025, and Called Meeting August 7, 2025**  
Chair Rogers asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 12, 2025, and the called meeting on August 7, 2025. The motion was made by Rembert to accept the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Ford. Passed unanimously by Rogers, Rembert, Ford, Presnell, Haulk and Rodriguez.
- IV. Treasurer's Report  
Manager Carter covered the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Financial Review for 2025-2026. All budget items are on track for the first quarter. Maintenance is at 38% expenditure of year total due to contract renewals. Normal for this time of year. The city has not made their yearly contribution yet, but the clerk has assured Manager Carter that the first installment will arrive sometime in October. The roof repair has been completed and there are no more roof issues.  
  
Grant-funded updates to the library property are completed. Operations Coordinator Harp is submitting for reimbursement on the upgrades to the State MR&R. If approved, it might leave extra grant funds available for further upgrades under the grant guidelines. Manager Carter should have more information about this for the board at the next meeting.
- V. Director's Report  
Director Alan Harkness presented the director's report. They had asked Director Harkness to inquire about repurposing grants to the state. The way the repurposing grants works has changed. Previously, repurposing grants gave 100% coverage. They are now a 50/50 split. They will award up to \$750,000, but the library itself must have 50% of that available upfront. The capital outlay grants are a 90/10 split for the first million requested with the library only needing to contribute 10%. After that it is a 50/50 split up to three million. Director Harkness believes the capital outlay grant is the better option for the Marion County Library.

Director Harkness introduced Mallie Brossett, the new county branch manager for the Cusseta-Chattahoochee County Public Library. Parks Memorial also has a new county branch manager who started two weeks ago.

The CVL is applying for a \$25,000 federal grant to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the US. The theme is "Food is the Soul of America." The history of the US can be traced through its culture and its food. There will be celebrity authors, cookbooks, chief talks, and programs at all seven locations. If the CVL is not awarded the grant, the Muscogee County Foundation will fund the event, so it will move forward whether the CVL receives the grant or not. It will be an awesome event.

While the CVL helps run the Chattahoochee Valley Imagination Library under the Dolly Parton Imagination Library that affiliate only covers Muscogee County and Chattahoochee County in Georgia. The Marion County Public Library has not been able to enroll children in Marion County. However, Flint Energies has provided grants for Marion County, and there is now a local affiliate providing books in Marion County.

#### VI. Local Library Report

Manager Carter gave her local library report. The Marion County Library has a new part-time employee, Shantelle. She has been doing a wonderful job so far. In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter: MCPL circulated over 4000 items, and over 500 visitors and patrons attended programs in the library and at community events. Visitors' counts have been consistently high. Summer reading went very well. MCPL read 113,665 minutes which is a 96% increase and 1,685 books a 5% increase, over last year.

Magnolia Manor has signed up for an institutional card, and Manager Carter has set up several book bundles and delivered them to the retirement home. The MCPL will have a tent at the Rural America Festival and will be doing card signup at the event. Manager Carter attended the local high school book club in September with 22 students. They were interested in Brain Fuse. Each took home library card applications.

Manager Carter attended L.K. Moss Elementary Schools' open house and spoke to around 90 people. Many were not aware that Marion County had a public library. Manager Carter will be meeting with the school librarian monthly. She will also be at the school's Pick a Pumpkin Festival. Social media is popular. Manager Carter has been working with the media department to increase traffic to social media. She also has automatic and a manual email blast going out every month about different library events. Manager Carter also went over all the upcoming events at the MCPL.

#### VII. Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business

#### VIII. New Business

##### **A. Review quotes and vote to approve expenditures of up to \$1,300.00 to replace fire extinguishers and repair fire panel/system.**

Manager Carter met with Fire Chief Shaun Roulston and volunteer Firefighter Stephen Matthews to review the MCPL fire safety plan and fire equipment. Much of the system is old, and the extinguishers are out of date. The Fire Chief recommended replacement of the fire extinguishers and found the fire panel needed repairs. Manager Carter obtained quotes for the repairs and replacement fire extinguishers from the Columbus Fire & Safety Equipment Co., Inc. They came

and found that the panel for now just needed new batteries however due the age of the wiring it could go at any moment. Director Harkness recommended passing the motion as written, that way if the panel does go, Manager Carter can just go ahead and have the company do the repairs without having to have an emergency called meeting.

Presell made a motion to approve expenditures of up to \$1,300.00 to replace the fire extinguishers and repair the fire panel/system. Haulk seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by Rogers, Rembert, Ford, Presnell, Haulk, and Rodriguez.

**B. Vote on candidates to fill the two vacancies on the Marion County Library Board opening at the end of the year.**

- i. Larry Bryant**
- ii. Patricia Henson**
- iii. Claudia Shields**

After a discussion, Ford made a motion to approve Patricia Henson and Larry Bryant to fill the upcoming vacant positions on the board. Motion was seconded by Rodriguez. Passed unanimously by Rogers, Rembert, Ford, Presnell, Haulk and Rodriguez. Manager Carter will be bringing the approved candidates to the next city meeting for approval.

- A. Chair Report**  
Chair Rogers did not have a report.
- B. Board Education – None**
- C. Next Meeting Date**  
The next meeting will take place on January 8, 2026.
- D. The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 PM**