Marcellus Free Library
Board of Trustees' Meeting
Meeting Minutes June 9, 2026—6:45 PM

Trustees present: Dennis Robillard (President), Jeremy Pellizzari (Treasurer), Hank Roane, Renee Alexander, Vanessa Barton

Also present: Sophia Brandt (Library Director), Lise Blystone (Friends of MFL Treasurer), Martha Dickey (MFL Staff), Ilah Welsh (MFL Staff), Michael Zoanetti (Tompkins Financial Advisors), John Shea (Virtual – Tompkins Financial Advisors)

Meeting Called to Order by Dennis Robillard at 6:48 PM.

Additions/Changes to Agenda. None

Review and Approval of Minutes from May 2, 2026. Motion to approve May minutes made by Jeremy P. Seconded by Renee A. Minutes approved unanimously.

Tompkins Financial Presentation Michael and John presented an update on the library's investment portfolio, including the impact of recent market volatility on performance. They compared year-to-date results against the Policy Benchmark (70/30) and explained recent changes made to the Core Equity stock lineup that supports the library's investment objectives.

Director's Report. Sophia reported The Library Levy Proposition on the MCSD ballot passed with 533 votes in favor (~75%) and 176 votes opposed. See Certified Vote Tally for complete results.

May featured several successful programs for both adults and youth. Adult programming included the Monday Memories Reminiscence Group, which was attended by four adults and three caregivers and generated enough interest that participants requested weekly meetings. The Couch to 5K Group Runs continued on Saturdays, attracting four to five participants each week. The Marcellus Film Festival, led by local resident Lewis McCafrey, drew an audience of 30 attendees. On the youth services side, staff presented the Summer Reading Program at KCH, reaching approximately 507 audience members in advance of the summer season.

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Looking ahead to June, adult programming will include a Blood Drive in partnership with the American Red Cross and a "Get to Know Your County Legislator" event featuring Gregory Erikson, both scheduled for June 22. Family and youth offerings include the Summer Solstice Solar Flares program with Barefoot Bob on June 20, and Family Fun Friday: Celebrate USA 250 on June 26. The Hatch the Chicken program will begin with the arrival of eggs on June 17, followed by candling events and an anticipated hatch date of July 8. The library will kick off its Summer Reading Program on June 29.

Library volunteers contributed a total of 20 hours of service during the month of May. The library also recognizes several employee service anniversaries this summer. Martha celebrated her 8-year anniversary on June 5, Sara will mark 10 years of service on June 29, Debbie will celebrate her 21-year anniversary on July 1, and Sophia will reach her 5-year anniversary on August 16.

Library traffic decreased by 16% compared to May 2025. Overall circulation was down by 2% compared to this time last year. Physical materials circulation decreased by 9.3%, though Digital borrowing continued to show strong growth, with both Libby and Hoopla circulation increasing by 20% year over year.

Committee Reports

Friends: Lisa reported June Booksale profits were similar to previous years at ~$2,300. The Friends have a full slate of officers lined up for their next year which begins July 1. Currently, the membership is 220+. In an effort to attract more members available in the evenings, the Friends meetings for 2026-2027 will be held in the evenings for every other meeting.

Nominations Committee: Nothing to report.

Buildings and Maintenance: Sophia reported that Welch Construction revised their proposal for the roof work. They estimated a total cost of: $74,496.00 for the new roof, and 15k for the entrance canopy. Sophia submitted the Intent to Apply for Construction Aid on June 2 with the totals Welch estimated. The Marcellus Planning Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 17th. Vince from Keplinger Freeman Associates will be there to help with securing the variance for the pergola on the Amphitheater stage.

Development: Nothing to report.

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Finance: Jeremy reported the balance sheet remains strong. Revenue is tracking very close to budget and has flipped slightly ahead of budget. Expenses remain well ahead of budget, particularly in the personnel and operations / maintenance category. Maintenance budget surpluses primarily have to do with timing – we expected to incur more payments by this point in the year. We expect this gap will close. Our annual form 990 was e-filed and accepted.

Personnel/Policies: Nothing to report.

New Business

MOU Between the Friends of MFL and the Marcellus Free Library Motion to approve MOU made by Hank R. Seconded by Renee A. MOU approved unanimously.

Old Business

MOU Between OCPL and Member Libraries Discussed addition of the Free Direct Access Plan to MOU. To be voted on at September's meeting.

Questions/Comments from the Public. No questions or comments from the public

Adjournment into Executive Session to discuss Personnel updates. Motion to adjourn meeting made by Vanessa B. Motion seconded by Jeremy P. Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Minutes recorded by: Sophia Brandt

Next Board Meeting Date – Tuesday, September 8, 2026

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