

Marshall Public Library
Board of Trustees Minutes
March 3, 2021

1. Call to order by Anna Lane, Library Director, at 3:30 pm. Members were introduced as Darlene Dotson, Christina Deel, Dr. PJ Winters, Ruby Pye, Jenny Kerr, and Peggy Ramsey. Scherry Earl was absent for health reasons. Susan Marshall and Steve Flohr were introduced as members of Friends of the Marshall Public Library
2. Presentations or remarks from the public: None
3. Introduction of 2021 Board of Trustees: The trustees introduced themselves. Dr. PJ Winters and Jenny Kerr are new trustees, Darlene Dotson is a returning trustee.
4. Election of Officers and Decision on Meeting Time:
 - Dr. PJ Winters was nominated to Chair by Peggy Ramsey and seconded by Ruby Pye .
 - Darlene Dotson was nominated to Vice Chair by Jenny Kerr and seconded by Peggy Ramsey.
 - Christina Deel was nominated to Secretary by Peggy Ramsey and seconded by Jenny Kerr.
 - Meeting times moving forward will be at 3:30 on the first Wednesday of each month.
 - The next meeting will be April 7, 2021 at 3:30.
5. The March 3, 2020 minutes were approved following a motion by Ruby Pye and second by Peggy Ramsey. It should be noted that the March 2020 meeting was the last Board meeting held until this month's meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. Friends of the Public Library Report:
 - Susan Marshall introduced herself as the president of Friends and Steve Flohr as vice president.
 - The membership drive is underway. So far, 50 out of 147 returns have been received and Friends are looking to recruit new members.
 - Friends had been renting a storage facility for \$800 a year which has now been cleared out. Books are now being stored in the SWEPCO building basement.
 - The Friends hold four book sales a year. February of last year was the last book sale due to COVID-19.
7. Library Director's Report:
 - During the library's closure in 2020 due to COVID-19, the staff started a curbside delivery service, established a newsletter, inventoried the entire library collection, helped with the city's website, answered many phone calls about both library-related service and other questions, among other activities including a summer reading challenge.
 - In January this year, the staff initiated three different reading challenges--Book a Month, Read More (21 books in '21), Read Harder (52 books for 52 weeks of the year). QR Codes are available to help readers find books for the different challenge categories.
 - In 2020, individuals saved \$577,835.16 by checking out library materials vs. buying them. Typically, this figure is over \$1 million. These savings do not include other services utilized such as computers, interlibrary loan, information help, etc.
 - The library has tax forms available. The tax deadline in Texas has been extended to June 15th due to the snowstorm.

- The library has been assisting patrons in registering for vaccines whenever appointments become available. Almost 40 people so far have been assisted.
- The Great Backyard Bird Count, Black History Month daily Facebook posts, Blind Date with a Book, and Story Walk have been completed successfully.
- The Tocker Foundation helps rural libraries with a service population of fewer than 25,000 people. They contacted Terry Sloan at Waskom Public Library and Anna to gauge interest in participating in a year-long program to issue hotspots. Through this program, 10 hotspot devices can be checked out to help individuals access the internet at home. This is free for the library. If the program is successful, Marshall Public Library may extend the program. MEDCO and the Harrison County judge are working with Connected Texas to figure out where broadband is needed most in the county. Surveys are available for any Harrison County resident, business, or organization to complete online or in person to help in these efforts.
- Next month, the Annual Report will be shared.

8. Motion for adjournment was made at 4:13 by Ruby Pye and seconded by Jenny Kerr.

Submitted by Christina Deel, Secretary