

Marathon County Public Library

Resource Library Report

September 2023

This includes the *Agenda and Director's Report* for the upcoming September 18, 2023, Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees meeting.

Also included, are the agenda/minutes from August 2023.

**COUNTY OF MARATHON
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN****OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA**

**A meeting of the Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees,
Monday, September 18, 2023, at 12:00 noon
Library Headquarters, Wausau Community Room.**


Persons wishing to attend the meeting by computer or phone may log or call into the meeting beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following website <https://meet.goto.com/389605501> or number [1 866 899 4679](tel:18668994679). Access Code for dialing in 389-605-501.

When you enter the meeting, **PLEASE PUT YOUR COMPUTER AND PHONE ON MUTE!**

AGENDA

- 1. (12:00 p.m.) Call to Order**
- 2. Acknowledgement of Visitors**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
- 4. Bills and Services Report**
- 5. (10 minutes) Public Comments** *(Anyone addressing the Library Board is asked to do so in a respectful, professional, and courteous manner. The "Public Comments" portion of this meeting is offered as an opportunity for concerned citizens of Marathon County to be heard. The Board, however, is under no obligation to provide this forum. As such, any misuse could result in the removal of these privileges. Any person who wishes to address the Library Board during the "Public Comment" portion of meetings may only provide comment pertaining to an item on the agenda. He or she must sign in or e-mail their name, address, and the topic they wish to present to the Library Personnel Specialist no later than five minutes before the start of the meeting library-administration@mcpl.us)*
- 6. (15 minutes) Reports Regarding Recent Meetings and Communications. For Discussion and Informational Purposes Only. No Action will be taken.**
 - A. President**
 - B. Other Board Members**
 - C. Library Director**
 - D. Board Committees**
 - E. Friends of the Library**
 - F. MCPL Foundation**
 - G. Wisconsin Valley Library Service**
- 7. (15 minutes) 2024 Library Budget – For Discussion and Possible Action**
- 8. (15 minutes) Library Service Highlight: Central Wisconsin Book Fest – For Discussion and Informational Purposes Only**
- 9. Announcements**
- 10. Request for Future Agenda Items**
- 11. Next Meeting Dates**
 - Monday 10/16/2023
 - Monday 11/20/2023
 - Monday 12/18/2023

12. Adjournment

Signed: 
Library Director or Designee

*All times are approximate and subject to change

*Any person planning to attend this meeting who need special accommodations in order to participate should call the Library Administration Office at 715-261-7213 or e-mail library-administration@mcpl.us one business day before the meeting

EMAILED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and
EMAILED TO: Other Media Groups
EMIALED BY: H. Wilde
EMAILED DATE: September 14, 2023
EMAILED TIME: 8:35 a.m.

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE

BY: _____
DATE: _____
TIME: _____



Marathon County Public Library

Director Report

September 2023

Highlights

Strategic Plan Update



WiLS consultants Laura D and Melissa M hosted the “Dream Big with MCPL” steering committee virtual kick-off meeting on September 5. During the meeting, steering committee members were able to introduce themselves to the group, learn more about their role in the creation of the library’s strategic plan, and start to build a community contact list for future community conversations. I am pleased to report that we have an exceptional group of influential community members who have already added value to this monumental process for the library.

During this next phase, consultants will be focused on extensive data gathering through area demographic and DPI reports, as well as community and staff engagement through: SOAR (strengths, opportunities, aspirations and results) sessions, community gatherings, stakeholder interviews, surveys, and community Q&A boards.

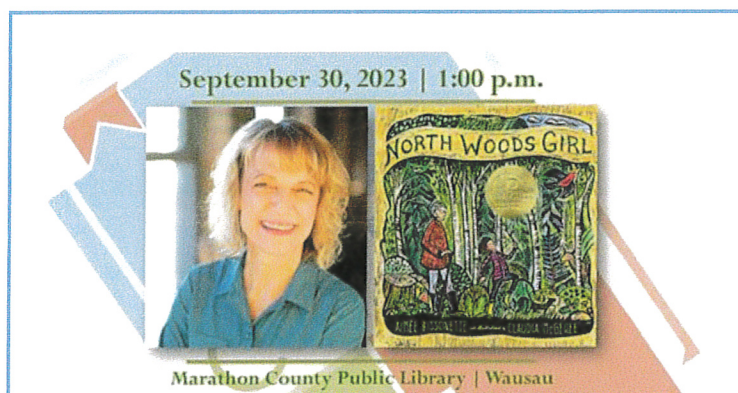
Central Wisconsin Book Festival 2023

The Central Wisconsin Book Festival began in 2017 as an initiative of the Marathon County Public Library in Wausau, WI and takes place annually around the second half of September. The festival remains under MCPL’s umbrella and is organized by about a dozen community volunteers. In 2021, our festival expanded to include the participation of the Portage County Public Library in Stevens Point, WI and McMillan Memorial Library in Wisconsin Rapids, WI. Our three libraries remain annual partners for this festival and you’ll find events in a variety of places in each city as well as a few virtual events!

The idea was, and continues to be, to provide lovers of literature in Central Wisconsin and beyond with a chance to hear and meet a multitude of authors – some they know, some they don't – over the course of several days or even a week or more. This year most events are held Thursday, September 28th through Sunday, October 1st.

Highlights from the 2023 lineup include:

- A Community Read of the *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley
- An Evening with Angeline Boulley via Zoom
- Fiction (and Funny) with Author Lorna Landvik
- Nature Connections for Children with Aimée Bissonette
- "Small Town Wisconsin" with Mary Bergin
- "Chinese Prodigal" with David Shih
- A Writer's Life with Victoria Houston
- ... and so much more!



The Festival is almost entirely grant-funded and is free to attend! All event details can be found on the Marathon County Public Library website at mcpl.us/cwbf. -Chad D, Library Specialist

Library Services

August saw the end of our Summer Library Program (SLP) and gave Library Services an opportunity to plan for a busy autumn. Over the course of the summer, we gave over 600 books to the 500 children who participated in our SLP. We were thrilled to have such a successful year and to empower so many young readers across Marathon County. We are already planning for next year's SLP—stay tuned for more literary fun in 2024! August story times at our local parks continued to be a hit with over 50 people in attendance at each event. Due to the success of Story Time at the Parks, we are already planning to offer the program again next summer. In collaboration with Marathon County Parks & Recreation, Youth Services staff led a space-themed story time at the popular Wausau Under the Stars event in Sunny Vale Park. Teens joined us for the last Dungeons and Dragons event where they raved about the program. We have monthly D&D themed events for teens planned throughout the rest of 2023 and hope to see many of these young people back in the library. DIY friendship bracelets, therapy dogs, and Pokémon Club continued to be popular with children and families as summer winds down.

Our Adult Services team is hard at work preparing for the upcoming Central Wisconsin Book Festival and fall programming. September 1st ushers in a whole host of excitement at the library. Led by our Event Coordinator and a team of volunteers, the Central Wisconsin Book Festival activities begin on September 1st with the Poetry Walk in downtown Wausau and Steven's Point. Throughout the month of August, our Marketing Specialist brainstormed an exciting and fun way to encourage Marathon County residents to get a library card or renew an inactive card. Our Library Card Sign up Drive begins September 1st. During the month of September, Marathon County residents can sign up for a library card at any of our locations and enter to win a raffle for library-themed prizes. In August, we collaborated with the Wausau ECDC Multicultural Community Center to organize a book display in the library for Welcoming Week. Other August programming highlights include the MCPL-wide Artist Celebration Weekend in honor of American Artist Appreciation Month, Let's Talk! Social Hour, Extensions Gardening: Herbaceous Ornamentals, and Anime After Dark.

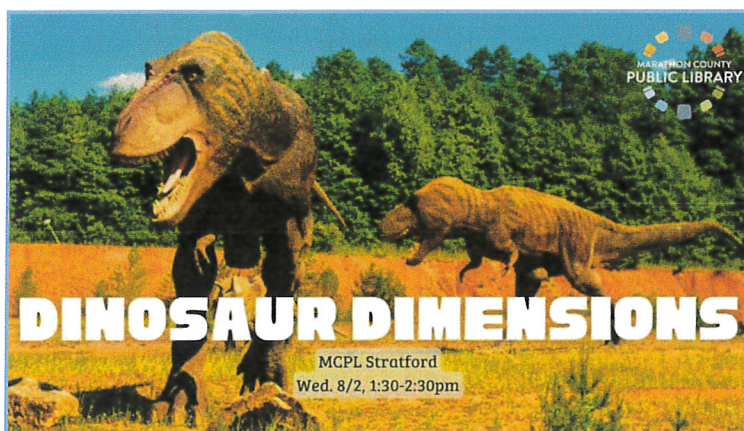
Library Services also had the opportunity to attend AED training with a representative from Marathon County.

-Katelyn S, Library Services Manager

Branches

Summer has been a fun and busy time across all of our locations. It would be impossible to share all of the wonderful things happening in all of our locations this summer, but here are some highlights. Additional information (and photos!) can be found on our social media.

Dinosaur Dimensions filled the air with thrills, chills and Jurassic Jump Scares at both our Stratford and Rothschild branches on Aug. 2. More than 80 people in Stratford and 250 in Rothschild enjoyed the very entertaining and fascinating puppet show that incorporated prehistoric facts, fossils and fun!



Edgar hosted a stuffed animal sleepover event on the 21st and had 16 in attendance. Children were able to drop off a favorite stuffed animal and then received photos of all the fun things their stuffed friends got up to while the library was closed. This event is always a favorite!

Patrons at all locations enjoyed our book and art display for American Artist Appreciation Weekend on Aug. 4 and 5, and participated in our creative DIY Artist Stations inspired by famous American artists.

Book Club and Family Story Time continue to be well attended at many of our locations. Patrons have also visited our locations for a variety of craft weeks, Lego events, sidewalk chalk parties, and educational programs. Creative book displays were featured at all locations including ones like "The Dog Days of Summer," "Back to School," "But wait...it's still summer," and "Fire and Ice.

All locations are working with Kayla and James on a graphic novel relabeling project. This will help make the collection easier to shelve and will help patrons and staff better find what they are looking for.

Regarding facilities, in Hatley, the AC for the library portion of the building has not been working correctly. Bauer Plumbing and Heating has been out multiple times to figure out the issue and we are hopeful it will be fully functional within the first week of September! In Edgar, the new parking lot project was completed on 8/31. It looks great! In Mosinee, new locks were installed to the three outer most doors of the Mosinee Branch.

In staffing news, Kitty R took over as Athens Branch Coordinator on August 21. She lives in the Athens area and is happy to be back home. Thank you to everyone who helped at Athens this month during the transitional time. Kitty and Shahara are prepping for the move to the new building and are busy sorting and organizing. Interviews for the open Marathon City position were held on August 9th and 11th. They went well and we will hopefully have a new team member starting soon.

—Laura W, Branch Team Lead

Follow Up on the Library Board's Definition of Session

Please note that as requested, Marathon County's Corporation Counsel has provided guidance on the definition of 'session' as it relates to the Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees meetings. This memo can be found on the next page.

Memo

To: Marathon County Library Board
From: Mike Puerner, Corporation Counsel
Date: September 13, 2023
Re: Definition of "Session"

Marathon County Library Board Trustees:

At your previous meeting, Trustee Jacobson asked for research to be completed regarding how a session is defined for the purposes of meetings of the Marathon County Library Board. After reviewing the question, I find that the Library Board's current operating definition of session is, as defined in Robert's Rules of Order, a single meeting of the Board of Trustees, as there is no alternative statutory definition or related Library Board bylaw creating a different definition.

Applicable Statutory Authority

Wisconsin law does not define the length of a session for a Library Board of Trustees. Wisconsin Statute Section 43.57(5)(a)1 makes it clear that the membership of a Library Board is divided into three equal groups with staggered terms, meaning that the entirety of the Library Board does not turn over at a single point in time, but instead its members have differing terms of office. Neither this statutory section, nor the entirety of Chapter 43, define what a session is for a Library Board.

Robert's Rules of Order

As identified in the Marathon County Library Board's Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order, the latest revised edition, govern the parliamentary procedure of the board's meetings. Article IV, Section 7, Marathon County Library Board Bylaws, <https://mcpl.us/about/policies/bylaws-for-the-marathon-county-public-library-board-of-trustees/>.

In section 8:2 of Robert's Rules of Order, a session of an assembly, "unless otherwise defined by the bylaws or governing rules of the particular organization or body, is a meeting or series of connected meetings devoted to a single order of business, program, agenda, or announced purpose, in which – when there is more than one meeting – each succeeding meeting is

scheduled with a view to continuing business at the point where it was left off at the previous meeting.” Section 8:3 of Robert’s further states that, “[i]n a permanent society whose bylaws provide for regular weekly, monthly, or quarterly meetings that go through an established order of business in a single afternoon or evening, each ‘meeting’ of this kind normally completes a separate session – unless the assembly at such a meeting schedules an adjourned meeting.” Robert’s further states that this rule is the “common parliamentary law and holds except where the bylaws provide otherwise.”

Bylaws

The Bylaws of the Board of Trustees does not contain a definition of “session”. The Bylaws do set forth regular monthly meetings that go through an established order of business in a single afternoon. Additionally, in reviewing the Library Board’s past agendas, the Library Board does not schedule or set successive adjourned meetings, but instead holds new meetings each month. Under the Robert’s Rules interpretation of “session,” each successive monthly meeting of the Library Board would constitute a separate session.

Alternative Interpretations

The Library Board’s Bylaws do indicate that, in January of each year, an annual meeting of the Library Board is held. Article IV, Section 2, Marathon County Library Board Bylaws, <https://mcpl.us/about/policies/bylaws-for-the-marathon-county-public-library-board-of-trustees/>. An argument could be made that the 12 months between each annual meeting constitutes an individual session. However, the Library Board has not adopted this definition in its own bylaws and has specifically adopted Robert’s Rules of Order when its Bylaws are silent. Further, the Library Board does not schedule each successive monthly meeting as an “adjourned” meeting so as to continue the action from the previous meeting in one continuing session. Accordingly, without a specific definition adopted by the Library Board, I cannot find there is an expressed intent of the Board to stray from the default rule as outlined in Robert’s. As Robert’s indicates, if a body does not “expect to convene until the next ‘regular meeting’ prescribed by rule or bylaw,” the effect of adjournment at a particular meeting is to close the session at hand. Robert’s Rules of Order, § 8:9.

Importance of Session

The significance of the term of a session of a deliberative body is, in part, the renewability of motions. The same or substantially the same question cannot be brought up a second time during the same session except by means of a motion to reconsider or related parliamentary motions. Robert’s Rules of Order, § 8:15; § 38. At a later session, such a motion can be renewed without parliamentary prohibition. Robert’s Rules of Order, § 8:15; §9:9.

Recommendations

I do recommend that the Library Board consider adopting a definition of session in its bylaws to clearly state its intention. In reviewing the Bylaws, a definition that coincides with the Board's annual meeting would seem to fit well within the context of the Board's existing and historical operations. However, the decision on whether to adopt a definition, and what that definition may be, is ultimately up to the Board of Trustees.

Conclusion

Because the Library Board's Bylaws do not adopt an alternative definition of "session," and because the default definition of a session is, as defined in Robert's Rules of Order, a single meeting of the Board of Trustees, I find that this default definition applies to the Library Board of Trustees unless and until an alternative definition is adopted.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Puerner".

Michael Puerner
Corporation Counsel
Marathon County



**COUNTY OF MARATHON
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN**

OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

**A meeting of the Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees,
Monday, August 21, 2023, at 12:00 noon
Library Headquarters, Wausau Community Room.**


Persons wishing to attend the meeting by computer or phone may log or call into the **meeting beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following website <https://meet.goto.com/758330069> or number [1 866 899 4679](tel:18668994679)**. Access Code for dialing in 758-330-069.

When you enter the meeting, **PLEASE PUT YOUR COMPUTER AND PHONE ON MUTE!**

AGENDA

1. (12:00 p.m.) **Call to Order**
2. **Acknowledgement of Visitors**
3. **Approval of Minutes**
4. **Bills and Services Report**
5. (10 minutes) **Public Comments** *(Anyone addressing the Library Board is asked to do so in a respectful, professional, and courteous manner. The "Public Comments" portion of this meeting is offered as an opportunity for concerned citizens of Marathon County to be heard. The Board, however, is under no obligation to provide this forum. As such, any misuse could result in the removal of these privileges. Any person who wishes to address the Library Board during the "Public Comment" portion of meetings may only provide comment pertaining to an item on the agenda. He or she must sign in or e-mail their name, address, and the topic they wish to present to the Library Personnel Specialist no later than five minutes before the start of the meeting library-administration@mcpl.us)*
6. (15 minutes) **Reports Regarding Recent Meetings and Communications. For Discussion and Informational Purposes Only. No Action will be taken.**
 - A. President
 - B. Other Board Members
 - C. Library Director
 - D. Board Committees
 - E. Friends of the Library
 - F. MCPL Foundation
 - G. Wisconsin Valley Library Service
7. (5 minutes) **2024 WVLS Resource Library Agreement – For Discussion and Possible Action**
8. (10 minutes) **Legal Implications of Public Library Rating Systems – For Discussion and Informational Purposes Only**
9. (15 minutes) **Public Library Rating Systems Discussion – For Discussion and Informational Purposes Only**
10. **Announcements**
11. **Request for Future Agenda Items**
12. **Next Meeting Dates**
 - Monday 09/18/2023
 - Monday 10/16/2023
 - Monday 11/20/2023
 - Monday 12/18/2023

13. Adjournment

Signed: 
Library Director or Designee

*All times are approximate and subject to change

*Any person planning to attend this meeting who need special accommodations in order to participate should call the Library Administration Office at 715-261-7213 or e-mail library-administration@mcpl.us one business day before the meeting

EMAILED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and
EMAILED TO: Other Media Groups
EMIALED BY: H. Wilde
EMAILED DATE: August 15, 2023
EMAILED TIME: 9:45 a.m.

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE

BY: _____
DATE: _____
TIME: _____

Regular meeting of the Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees, Monday, August 21, 2023.

Present: Kari Sweeney (remote), Becky Buch, Gary Gisselman, Brent Jacobson (remote), LeeAnn Podruch, Reid Rayome, Leah Giordano

Absent: Andrea Sheridan

Others: Alexander Johnson, Katelyn Sabelko, Heather Wilde, Stephanie Martell, David Hahn, Marla Sepnafski and over 100 additional visitors. Remote visitors: 48 additional remote visitors.

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Reid Rayome with a quorum present between in person and remote participation.

Reid Rayome acknowledged visitors and thanked them for their interest in the library.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BECKY BUCH; SECONDED BY LEANN PODRUCH TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 17, 2023 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY GISSELMAN; SECONDED BY BECKY BUCH TO APPROVE THE JULY, 2023 BILLS AND SERVICES REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comments –Members of the public shared comments.

President – None

Other Board Members – None

Director's Report – Presented in the Board packet and by Director Leah Giordano. WILS has reached out to the Strategic Plan Steering Committee Members with a survey about the library and county. They are working on setting a date and time for the initial meeting.

Board Committees – None

Friends of the Library –

- The Friends have received a donation of artwork.
- The Friends have started selling T-shirts and totes. These items will soon be available at the Wausau main desk.

MCPL Foundation – None

Wisconsin Valley Library Service –The Board met on August 18th, primarily to discuss the budget. Trustee training is available this week live and then will be archived for future viewing at www.witrusteetraining.com.

2024 WVLS Resource Library Agreement

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY GISSELMAN; SECONDED BY LEEANN PODRUCH TO APPROVE THE 2024 WVLS RESOURCE LIBRARY AGREEMENT AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

Legal Implications of Public Library Rating Systems- Marathon County Corporation Counsel, Mike Puerner discussed the legal implications of a public library rating system and potential risks of implementing a rating system at the library. Several factors were discussed including First Amendment rights, who would do the rating system, viewpoint neutrality, and the legal obligation to rate objectively rather than subjectively. A rating system, though not tested in court, might subject the library board and the library to legal challenges, particularly First Amendment challenges.

The Library Board thanked Corporation Counsel for his attendance, research, and advice in this regard.

Public Library Rating Systems Discussion - The Board discussed further the implications of creating a rating system and the alternatives to a rating system.

A request was made to have Corporation Counsel submit in writing for the September Board meeting the definition of "session" as it would apply to Robert's Rules of Order to the Library Board for the purpose of revisiting the current issue.

Announcements -None

Request for Future Agenda Items – Inclusion in the next Board packet of Corporation Counsel's research into the definition of "session" as requested above.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY GISSELMAN; SECONDED BY LEEANN PODRUCH TO ADJOURN AT 1:52. MOTION CARRIED.


Library Director or Designee

Note: These minutes subject to approval at the next Library Board meeting scheduled for September 18, 2023.