



Marengo-Union Library District Board Meeting

Date: July 24, 2025

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Marengo-Union Library, 19714 E. Grant Highway, Marengo, IL

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Jay Filler at 7:38 pm.

Roll Call

Trustees Present:	Judi Alden, Shari Kagan, Paul Garcia, Desiree B. Sierens, Jay Filler
Trustees Absent:	Catrina Hill, David B. Martin
Staff Present:	Sondra Terry, Alex Mateja
Public Present:	Carol Collier

Additional Agenda Items

Trustee Garcia, requested that the board enter Executive Session for reasons of Personnel. President Filler acknowledged the request and tabled it until the end of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the June 24, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by Judi, 2nd by Shari

Yes: Judi, Shari, Paul, Desiree,

Abstain: Jay

Public Forum

Public member Carol Collier inquired about the process to become a trustee and the positions available. A brief explanation of the process was provided.

Financial Report

A motion was made to approve the Financial Report.

Moved by Desiree, 2nd by Judi

Yes: Judi, Shari, Paul, Desiree, Jay

Vendor's list and new Vendors

A motion was made to approve the vendor's list and new vendor: Kanopy

Moved by Desiree, 2nd by Judi

Yes: Judi, Shari, Paul, Desiree, Jay

Communications

The Board revisited discussion of the shared parking lot revamp between the library and Joe's Place. The President reported that he met with the neighboring property owner (Joe Miceli) and indicated general agreement on the proposed plans. He stated he would contact the contractor (J Condon) to move the project forward. The President also requested a survey of the building, citing a difference of opinion regarding property boundaries.

Library Director's Report

- The Director reported several personnel changes, including one retirement, two resignations, and one termination. An internal transfer was made from Administrative Assistant to Library Assistant. Interviews are underway to fill the vacant positions.
- The library is participating in this year's Marengo Market, with several new sign-ups reported.
- Two new digital resources have been added: Kanopy (streaming media) and Udemy (educational courses). Udemy costs approximately \$2,000 annually and allows the library to manage content access based on pricing tiers. Promotional materials are being developed to increase patron engagement.
- The library continues to monitor usage of platforms like Hoopla to better understand digital content preferences.
- Minor updates were made to the front desk including modified layouts to improve visibility of brochures and promotional materials.
- A display of bestselling titles will be reinstated.
- The Director reviewed the print book selection process. Library staff utilize multiple review sources, bestseller lists, and patron suggestions to select materials for the collection.

Standing Committee Reports

None

Old and New Business

A motion was made to approve a special Library closure for Sunday, October 12th, which is the weekend of Settler's Days. The Library will be participating in the Parade on Sunday.

Moved by Paul, 2nd by Shari

Yes: Judi, Shari, Paul, Desiree, Jay

The Director presented the tentative budget and appropriation ordinance for the upcoming fiscal year. She noted that the draft was being shared earlier than usual to allow for the required 30-day public review period prior to the next board meeting. Significant changes include planned capital purchases, such as parking lot improvements and roofing work, as well as an increase in audit costs. The Director also noted uncertainty in material pricing due to current tariffs.

A motion was made to approve the tentative budget and appropriation for posting.

Moved by Shari, 2nd by Judi

Yes: Judi, Shari, Paul, Desiree, Jay

Executive Session

A motion was made to enter Executive Session regarding Personnel (5ILCS 120/2(c)(1)) at 8:03pm.

Moved by Paul, 2nd by Desiree

Yes: Judi, Shari, Paul, Desiree, Jay

A motion was made to exit Executive Session regarding Personnel (5ILCS 120/2(c)(1)) at 8:17pm.

Moved by Judi, 2nd by Shari

Yes: Judi, Shari, Paul, Desiree, Jay

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Jay Filler at 8:19 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Mateja
Library Assistant