



Marengo-Union Library District Board Meeting

Date: October 28, 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 at 7:34pm.

Roll Call

Trustees Present:	Jay Filler, Judi Alden, Desiree Sierens, Paul Garcia, David Martin, and Catrina Hill
Trustees Absent:	Shari Kagan
Staff Present:	Sondra Terry and Alex Mateja
Public Present:	Susan Szymanski and Kennedy Salazar

Additional Agenda Items

None

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the 9/23 Budget and Appropriation minutes and the 9/23 Board Meeting minutes

Moved by Judi, 2nd by Paul

Yes: All

Public Forum

- Technical Services Assistant Kennedy introduced herself to the board and described duties and inspirations. She also answered general questions about her position.
- Trustee Paul Garcia inquired about the upcoming bake sale and the scheduling calendar.

Financial Report

A motion was made to approve the Financial Report

Moved by Dave, 2nd by Judi

Yes: All

Vendor's list and new Vendors

A motion was made to approve the vendors list. There were no new vendors.

Moved by Dave, 2nd by Judi

Yes: All

Communications

- Documentary Announcement: Sondra shared information about The New Librarian, a documentary addressing nationwide book bans, currently in theaters and scheduled to air on PBS in February 2026.
- Trustee Resources: Discussion on PUG Day and trustee development opportunities. Sondra encouraged board members to utilize available training through ILA and other organizations.
- Friends of the Library: The Friends' recent book sale brought in approximately \$100, with an additional \$50 in donations. Discussion focused on improving communication and coordination between library staff and the Friends group.
- Easement Agreement: Jay drafted an easement agreement for Joe Micelli. The engineer has submitted it to the state for review, and approval is pending.

Library Director's Report

- The Library won Best Walking Group in the Settlers Day parade.
- Technical Services Assistant Dennis was accepted into RAILS' new Catalyst Program, designed for leadership and professional development. His first meeting was held at ILA, with future meetings to be conducted virtually.
- Three end-of-life staff computers will be replaced as well as an additional laptop for staff use.
- Book vendor information was distributed, including details for Ingram and Libraria.
- Library Director Sondra and Technical Services Assistant Crystal attended the PrairieCat Users Group meeting and shared key takeaways with staff.
- Community Incident: A local individual recorded inappropriate videos near the library and falsely claimed to have spoken with the Director. The matter was noted and addressed; no contact occurred.

- The Library Director will transition to a Monday–Friday schedule. Vice President Desiree inquired about Saturday coverage; the Director confirmed sufficient staffing with four team members available.

Standing Committee Reports

Building

Finance

Long Range Planning

Personnel

- Trustee Paul said that a date for the Director’s review needs to be agreed upon soon. November is tentative and there will be further communication between Trustee Paul and the Director.

Policy

Technology

Fundraising

Old and New Business

A motion was made to approve the suggested Library Holiday closures for 2026.

Moved by Desiree, 2nd by Judi

Yes: All

The Director recommended extending the 2026 Christmas closure through Saturday. Desiree suggested extending the closure through Sunday of that weekend.

Reaching Forward conference: The Director believes it is important for library employees, especially those public-facing, to attend this conference in May of 2026 and requested a closure in order for staff to attend. Closure of the library for attending this conference is tentative and to be discussed further.

A motion was made to approve Truth in Taxation resolution.

Moved by Desiree, 2nd by Judi

Yes: All

A motion was made to approve the new levy.

Moved by Dave, 2nd by Judi

No: Paul

Yes: Dave, Judi, Desiree, Jay, Catrina

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Jay at 8:30pm.