MARIGOLD REPORT ● ● ●

To Councils and Special Areas Board

Marigold has complied with the *Libraries Act* requirements to continue to conduct Board meetings during the COVID-19 situation. Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) deems an online Board meeting to have met necessary requirements as long as the following are met: Notice of the electronic meeting is advertised and provides information necessary for the public to access the meeting and information on the method being used; the public is able to hear the meeting as it is occurring; anyone entitled to make submissions before and during the meeting can do so by email or any other method the Board considers appropriate; the Library Manager is able to attend the meeting by electronic means.

HIGHLIGHTS OF MARIGOLD AGM AND BOARD MEETING

Held on Saturday, April 18, 2020

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic situation, Marigold Library System held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) and regular Board Meeting via Zoom Video Teleconference with 39 Board members in attendance.

BOARD MEETING

FINANCIAL

Unaudited financial statements to March 31, 2020 were accepted as presented. Expenses are on track. TRAC levy, TAL membership, insurance and some eResource subscriptions are paid in full at the beginning of the year.

IT UPDATE

Marigold IT staff continue to focus on our security and infrastructure reorganization and reconfiguration. Priorities this year include discussions and enhancements of the website platform development to improve patron and staff user experience, and to configure and train all staff with a new digital literacy and security platform.

IMPORTANT DATES
(LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, DEPENDENT ON THE COVID-19 SITUATION)

- Saturday, August 29, 2020
  Exshaw, 9:30 am
- Saturday, November 21, 2020
  Rocky View County, 9:30 am

Elections and committee appointments

Lynda Lyster continues in her position as Chair. As outlined in Marigold's Constitution, the Vice Chair and Treasurer are chosen from members of the Executive Committee and were appointed at the February 19, 2020 Executive Committee meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2020 - 2021

Lynda Lyster – Bighorn MD #8, Chair
John Getz – Village of Standard, Vice Chair
Gary Billings – Village of Rockyford, Treasurer
Leon Cygman – City of Airdrie
Kristen Anderson – Village of Hussar
Maxine Booker – Acadia MD #34
Dimitri Dimopoulos – Rocky View County
Lil Morrison – Starland County
Susan Roper – Town of Cochrane
Margaret Nielsen – Town of Drumheller

STANDING COMMITTEES 2020 - 2021

Advocacy
Lil Morrison (Chair)
Teresa Cameron
Jordan Elliott
Melanie Jensen
Denise Peterson
Helen Veno
Lynda Lyster

Building
John Getz (Chair)
Gary Billings
Denise Peterson
Lynda Lyster

Human Resources (HR)
Susan Roper (Chair)
Maxine Booker
Dimitri Dimopoulos
Lynda Lyster

Finance
Gary Billings (Chair)
John Getz
Lynda Lyster

Governance
Kristen Anderson (Chair)
Eleanor Chinnick
Jan Dyck
Margaret Nielsen
Denise Peterson
John Getz

Standards & Services
Maxine Booker (Chair)
Leon Cygman
Lennox Gomes
Elaine Michaels
Jo Tennant
Lynda Lyster

AUDIT

Erin Gregory presented Marigold's 2019 audited financials and answered questions.

Photo: Erin Gregory with Gregory, Harriman and Associates via Zoom Teleconference.

2019 Audited Financial Statements, were prepared by Auditors Gregory, Harriman and Associates, and presented Marigold Library System with a clean audit.

Marigold remains in a strong financial position and its building project is proceeding even though there was a minor operational deficit of less than 1% of the total budget that was caused by several factors, including the costs of hiring cyber experts and boosting security systems during 2019. Revenues increased by $188,008; expenses increased by $669,897; and the overall deficit including amortization was $90,953.

Audited Financials are available at:
www.marigold.ab.ca/financial-information

REPORTS

MARIGOLD ANNUAL REPORT:

Setting the Future in Motion. The Board approved the Annual Report for distribution to stakeholders. Read more about Marigold's achievements and milestones at:

www.marigold.ab.ca/annual-report

In 2019, Marigold welcomed notable achievements and took on challenging obstacles. It was a year of relationship-building, increased services and programs, and completing necessary steps to move forward with the construction of our new joint headquarters building.

◘ Marigold and WID made strides towards the construction of a new headquarters facility building.

◘ Memberships for Siksika and Stoney Nakoda First Nations increased by 61% due to outreach and relationship-building initiatives.

◘ In August, Marigold launched a newly redesigned website platform for Marigold Headquarters, the Hussar Library Board, Teen Summer Library Experience and all of our 36 member libraries.

◘ Marigold successfully implemented the Holds Workflow Process with all its member libraries—a routing process that gets library materials into patrons' hands faster.

◘ There has been significant increases in the number of cardholders, items loaned, library visits and usage of eResources.

◘ **www.marigold.ab.ca/plan-service**

VALUE OF YOUR INVESTMENT

report shows the value of services provided annually by Marigold. Libraries and municipalities benefit directly through the pooling of revenues so that all residents have access to public library resources and services.

POWER OF YOUR LIBRARY CARD

report highlights services provided annually by Marigold that are of value to residents living in Counties, Improvement Districts, Special Areas, Summer Villages and MDs. Members are encouraged to share these reports with their local boards and councils.

Please contact Deputy CEO Laura Taylor for more information about the Value of Your Investment

laura@marigold.ab.ca

NEW BUILDING UPDATE:

Marigold continues to work towards the construction of a larger and better equipped headquarters facility in Strathmore in a joint project with Western Irrigation District (WID).

◘ Marigold and WID received approval of the Purchase and Development Agreements for the purchase of 50% of the facility parcel. Shortly after the purchase of the 50% of the facility parcel was completed.

◘ Subdivision approval by the Town of Strathmore was received.

◘ After the distribution of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for architectural services, the contract was awarded to BRZ Partnership Architecture.

◘ Marigold reviewed space needs and identified workflow priorities to complete the Schematic Design Phase.

◘ Marigold and WID met for three Joint Facility Committee meetings last year.

◘ The Town of Strathmore approved the Development Permit on April 24.

Benefits of co-ownership include: reduced costs of planning; construction and operating a joint facility; alignment with the strategic priorities of all levels of government and enhanced community engagement.

Marigold's **New HQ** publication (included with this *Marigold Report*) gives detailed information and updates concerning our new building plans, funding and progress. All issues of ReNews can be found at:

http://marigold.ab.ca/new-building

MARIGOLD COVID-19 UPDATE:

On March 16, Marigold closed the doors to its physical facility but not to our services. As a regional library system, most of our work is behind-the-scenes and computer-based, and we can successfully do almost all of our work remotely. Marigold staff remain busy during this time. IT staff support remote access for HQ staff, member library staff and are reconfiguring the network in preparation for the SuperNet upgrade. Bibliographic services staff are staying on top of ordering and cataloguing materials and updating the online catalogue. Communication staff are updating websites, adding social media posts, adding new eResources, training member library staff, creating training webinars, responding to patron queries and much more. Our consultants are continuing to select physical and virtual materials and are communicating with member library staff and colleagues. Our drivers are not doing their usual weekday deliveries but they are doing plenty of work. They are maintaining the grounds, disinfecting surfaces and checking the property. Plans are underway to resume deliveries for new materials in early May. Administrative and senior staff are busier than ever planning, communicating, accounting, organizing remote meetings, and providing information for stakeholders.

During March, 1,401 new patrons were registered at Marigold libraries, and 8,026 patron accounts were renewed following March 17, 2020. Our eBook & eAudiobook statistics have been on the rise. A significant increase in new users/day has been noticed with Overdrive (178%) and CloudLibrary (317%). In March, all of our eResources experienced an increase in usage. Niche Academy had a 155% increase in tutorials viewed, TumbleBooks total book views increased by 150% and WorldBook had a spike of 1050% in content views and a 940% increase in estimated hits.