

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday April 23, 2019

Central Library

Community Room 1

814 West Wisconsin Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53233

PRESENT: Joan Prince, Ald. Milele Coggs, Ald. Nik Kovac, Matt Kowalski, James Marten
Dir. Mark Sain, Jennifer Smith, Paula Kiely

EXCUSED: Michele Bria, Chris Layden, Ald. Michael Murphy, Sup. Marcelia Nicholson

STAFF: Rachel Arndt, Joan Johnson, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns,
Anne Rasmussen, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske

OTHERS

PRESENT: MPL Foundation: Ryan Daniels, Patricia Swanson
Budget and Policy Division: Mason Lavey
Young Development Group: Lavelle Young

Vice-President Joan Prince called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:13 p.m. on April 23, 2019 with a quorum present.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 26, 2019.**
2. **Administrative Reports.**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director's Reports

Vice-President Prince asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda presented as attachment B, pages 3-18 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

REPORTS

3. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board.** Trustee Nik Kovac reported on the April 15, 2019 MCFLS Board meeting. Systemwide patron use of the Hoopla online subscription service has surpassed expectations and exceeded the budget. MCFLS Director Steve Hesel will contact member libraries to discuss increasing the budget for Hoopla or restructuring usage. Currently, MCFLS covers a portion of the cost and member libraries split the remaining balance. The new MCFLS Strategic Plan draft focuses on investing in more technology. The MCFLS Board is revising its Mission and Vision Statement. Informational item.

4. **Building and Development Committee**. Committee Chair Mark Sain reported on the April 4, 2019 meeting. A new exterior rendering of the proposed Garfield Theater Building site was presented to the Committee. Reductions in the white box cost per square foot were achieved by reducing the square footage of the library space in the building. The Committee asked the development team for more information about the library space layout and potential costs to preserve historic elements. The Trustees discussed the status and possibilities of the current library site. The Committee is dedicated to working with the development team to reach a suitable resolution and present recommendations to the full Board. Chair Sain reviewed the timeline on the reissued Request for Proposal for Capitol Library. Library Foundation Executive Director Ryan Daniels discussed fundraising ideas and opportunities for Good Hope Library. Vice-President Prince entertained a motion to approve the Foundation's fundraising strategies as recommended by the Committee. Trustee Coggs moved, no second was needed as the motion came out of committee. Informational item.

5. **Innovation and Strategy Committee**. Committee Chair Joan Prince reported on the April 17, 2019 meeting. The Committee reviewed the current demographic make-up of the Board and upcoming term expirations. President Bria will contact Trustees to gauge their interest in continuing service on the Board. The Committee is drafting a letter which will be sent to appointing authorities when advancing recommendations for Board appointment. The letter will include reasons for the nomination and will be accompanied by demographic data for consideration. The Committee is in the process of reviewing and preparing questions and timeline for the Board assessment. The assessment will be presented to the Board within the next four to six weeks. The Library Director and Board President will meet annually to discuss the relationship between the Board and MPL staff. The Committee has been charged with creating a task force to examine current funding models and investigate future funding options. Several individuals have been recommended as potential community co-chairs on the task force and the Committee is in the process of inviting them to join. The first task force meeting is slated for August 2019. Informational item.

6. **Finance and Personnel Committee**. Committee Vice-Chair Milele Coggs reported on the April 23, 2019 meeting. The Committee accepted the auditor's report of the Library Trust Fund. The fund investment performance was reviewed and continues to be in range of expectations. The portfolio allocations are well balanced and have allowed the fund to maintain consistency during market fluctuations. MPL staff confirmed internal accounting processes have been followed. The 2020 cost to continue budget is in preparation and will be presented to the Committee in July 2019. Director Kiely will work with the Committee to set a schedule for issuing an RFP for financial services.

OLD BUSINESS

8. **Bylaws Committee**. Committee Chair Jennifer Smith reviewed the proposed changes to the Board bylaws. The Committee made a motion to approve the changes. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

8. **Legislative Agenda.** Director Kiely gave a brief overview of the process by which the Library submits legislative requests. Attachment E of the agenda contained a list of current library legislative requests. Director Kiely discussed each of the requests and the desired outcomes. The Board offered suggestions for negotiating the request to add freeway signage directing people to Central Library and working with a state representative to amend Wis. Stat. 940.208. Director Kiely also informed the Board about the work of the Wisconsin Library Association Library Development and Legislation Committee, of which she is a new member. The Committee contracts a lobbyist to work on behalf of all libraries in the state. The lobbyist and Committee have worked to increase funding for all Wisconsin library systems, including MCFLS. Director Kiely will provide regular updates to the Board regarding legislative requests.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of April 23, 2019 was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.
