

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

Video Conference Call via GoToMeeting

PRESENT: Michele Bria, Chris Layden, Ald. Milele Coggs, Ald. Nik Kovac, Matt Kowalski, Teresa Mercado, Michael Morgan, Sup. Marcelia Nicholson, Erika Siemsen, Ald. JoCasta Zamarripa, Joan Johnson

EXCUSED: Mark Sain, Jennifer Smith

STAFF: Eileen Force Cahill, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Judy Pinger, Anne Rasmussen, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske

OTHERS

PRESENT: Budget and Policy Division: Mason Lavey
MPL Foundation: Ryan Daniels, Pat Swanson

President Michele Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:02 p.m. on July 27, 2021 with a quorum present. All Trustees participated by video conference.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

1. **Quarterly Review of Fund Investments.** The Board received the U.S. Bank Institutional Trust and Custody quarterly report for MPL dated July 27, 2021 prior to the meeting. Mr. Wayne Sattler, Senior Vice President & Managing Director at U.S. Bank, provided a market overview. The investment performance of the trust fund for the period ending June 30, 2021 was reviewed. The portfolio overview was summarized and the Board accepted the report. Informational item.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes June 22, 2021.**
3. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Building & Development Committee Meeting Minutes – July 1, 2021
4. **Administrative Reports**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director’s Reports
 - c. Statistics
5. **Letter from MCFLS Board to MPL Board.**
6. **Updated Committee Assignments.**

President Bria asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda presented as Attachment A, pages 3-29 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

REPORTS

7. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting.** Trustee Kovac reported on the July 19, 2021 meeting. The MCLFLS Board sent a letter to the MPL Board in appreciation of investments in OverDrive as it allowed additional electronic resources to be purchased, which was especially helpful during the pandemic. MCFLS Director Steve Hesper shared information about potential changes to the materials delivery service. The Public Library System Redesign (PLSR) work group has made a recommendation to manage delivery at regional levels instead of at the system level. The proposed changes would be more efficient, cost effective, and also incorporate deliveries to academic libraries. The sorting room at Central Library would be used as the materials sorting base for the entire region. A workgroup is reviewing alternatives to the shared catalog service and will put forth a recommendation in August. MCFLS is in the process of interviewing candidates for the new Marketing position. Director Hesper provided an update on strategic planning for the 2022-2024 period. MCFLS is conducting a survey of member libraries to gather input on how to use additional state funds. MPL will receive additional funding for the Resource Library and cataloging. A development plan for the village of Bayside includes a new library which would replace the current library. Informational item.
8. **Services & Programs Committee Meeting.** Trustee Morgan reported on the July 21, 2021 meeting. The Committee approved the minutes from the May 5, 2021 meeting and received the safety report. New security statistics categories have been created to track incidents related to the pandemic. Staff shortages at the security contract company have impacted staffing at MPL locations. The Committee was briefed on the status of several proposals MPL submitted to the City Budget Office and state legislators for funding through the American Rescue Plan Act. A new technology device lending policy was presented for approval. The policy will cover all circulating technology. Trustee Morgan moved to approve the new technology device lending policy; Trustee Siemsen seconded. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

9. **2022 Budget.** Library Director Joan Johnson provided an update on the 2022 budget process. The City is facing a significant budget shortfall and all departments were asked to respond to a worst-case scenario budget. At this time, the Budget Office has requested this for information only and not as the final budget submittal. The library's goal to keep all branches open and maintain hours would not be possible in the worst case scenario. Director Johnson shared some potential long- and short-term solutions the library could consider if faced with this scenario. Responses could include reducing hours at all locations, eliminating Sunday hours at branches, and committing to a higher vacancy rate. Reduced services during the M.L. King branch reconstruction is another possibility. MPL will submit the budget this week and an update will be presented to the Board at the September 28, 2021 meeting. Informational item.

BOARD EDUCATION

10. **Cargill Community Kitchen Programs.** Anne Rasmussen, Associate Director of Strategic Initiatives and Public Services, briefed the Board on the ongoing community kitchen programs at Mitchell Street branch. During the pandemic, MPL began offering virtual programs to continue its mission of helping people read, learn, and connect while building healthy neighborhoods. The programs at Cargill Community Kitchen focus on health literacy, food literacy, and cooking literacy. MPL hired

kitchen consultant Rayna Andrews, who incorporates her experience with teaching food literacy in under-served communities. Ms. Andrews has created 3 series of virtual programming:

- Virtual Cooking Classes with Celebrity Chefs in Milwaukee: MPL is partnering with food establishments in Milwaukee to help build the audience in new ways. Participants receive an ingredient list and can prepare the dish during the live virtual classes.
- Snack Hacks: Healthy Youth Ambassadors (ages 8-13) make kid-friendly snacks, taped at the Cargill Kitchen. The pre-recorded programs in this series offer presentation experience for the children and a virtual learning experience for participants.
- Plant Curious: These pre-recorded programs are hosted by a local registered nurse and focus on plant-based nutrition.

MPL will capture statistics about participation in the pre-recorded programs and send surveys to participants of the live programs. The library continues to assess virtual programming design, outcomes, and building a structure to support it in the future.

Dr. Bria thanked library staff for reimagining programming while keeping programs exciting and fun.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of July 27, 2021 was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.
