

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Tuesday, October 26, 2021**

**Video Conference Call via GoToMeeting**

**PRESENT:** Michele Bria, Chris Layden, Ald. Milele Coggs, Ald. Nik Kovac, Matthew Kowalski, Teresa Mercado, Michael Morgan, Sup. Marcelia Nicholson, Mark Sain, Erika Siemsen, Joan Johnson

**EXCUSED:** Jennifer Smith, Ald. JoCasta Zamarripa

**STAFF:** Maria Burke, Eileen Force Cahill, Tammy Mays, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Anne Rasmussen, Marian Royal, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske, Dana Zurek

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** Budget and Policy Division: Mason Lavey  
MPL Foundation: Ryan Daniels

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President Michele Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:03 p.m. on October 26, 2021 with a quorum present. All Trustees participated by video conference.

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**SPECIAL COMMUNICATION**

1. **Quarterly Review of Fund Investments**. On behalf of U.S. Bank, Vice President and Relationship Manager Richard Romero thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as the investment manager. Mr. Romero introduced Wayne Sattler, Senior Vice President & Managing Director at U.S. Bank. Mr. Sattler referred to the Account Investment Materials and provided a market overview. The investment performance of the trust fund for the period ending October 26, 2021 was reviewed. There were no recommended changes to the current portfolio allocations. Trustee Sain moved to accept the investment report; Trustee Nicholson seconded. Motion passed.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes September 28, 2021**.
2. **Committee Reports**
  - a. Building & Development Committee Meeting Minutes – October 7, 2021
  - b. Innovation & Strategy Committee Meeting Minutes – October 13, 2021
3. **Administrative Reports**
  - a. Financial Report
  - b. Library Director's Reports
  - c. Statistics
4. **Letter of Thanks for Additional Funds to Overdrive Advantage**.

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## REPORTS

6. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting.** Trustee Kovac reported on the October 11, 2021 meeting. North Shore Library is planning to open a new location in Bayside. The project has support from most member municipalities. The Board made regular annual approvals. Informational item.
7. **Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting.** Vice-Chair Milele Coggs reported on the October 26, 2021 meeting. The Committee received the quarterly Internal Controls report. Library Director Johnson presented a request to expend up to \$199, 000 from the MPL Trust and Gift Fund for operational support. The Committee moved to approve the expenditure request; Trustee Morgan seconded. Motion passed.
8. **Summer Reading Program Update.** Kelly Wochinske, Library Public Services Area Manager (EOS and CLCR) presented an update on the 2021 Summer Reading Program (SRP). Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the loss of in-person programming led to a decrease in participation and partnership opportunities; however, total participation increased 40% over 2020. The 2021 SRP was almost entirely virtual and participants were able to mix and match activities with reading. MPL staff continued to host daily story times, including programs in Spanish, Hmong, and American Sign Language. MPL hosted guest educators with presentations from local dance companies, Milwaukee Public Museum, Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, and a Super Reader Squad dance party with DJ Bizzon. MPL also offered 'Take and Make' kits with various themes focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and art. The kits included all necessary supplies and instructions. Librarians were overjoyed to offer outdoor Story Time programs for families. MPL worked with group and family child care centers, school age programs, and MPS summer academies to offer outreach support, community partnership, and book giveaways. MPL distributed just over 16,000 books this summer. The Teen Summer Reading Challenge included a public art scavenger hunt. The scavenger hunt encouraged teens to explore Milwaukee neighborhoods and view 52 pieces of outdoor public art. Teens were interested in activities that allowed for safe gathering and looking for outdoor public art was an enjoyable option. MPL hosted several virtual visits with children's and young adult authors and illustrators. In spite of challenges posed by the pandemic, the 2021 SRP was successful. Staff adapted to meet the needs of the public and will incorporate new skills and tools into future programs. Ms. Wochinske thanked all MPL staff and the MPL Foundation for their support of SRP. The Board thanked Ms. Wochinske and the Education and Outreach Services team for their vision, foresight, and dedication to the children of Milwaukee. MPL Foundation Executive Director Ryan Daniels shared information about the Grand Slam Sweepstakes fundraiser to help raise funds to support the 2022 SRP. Informational item.

## NEW BUSINESS

9. **2022 Board Meeting Schedule and Committee Assignments.** The Board reviewed the 2022 meeting schedule and committee assignments. Trustee Morgan moved to approve and Trustee Sain seconded. Motion passed.

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With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of October 26, 2021 was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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