

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Video Conference Call via GoToMeeting

PRESENT: Michele Bria, Ald. Milele Coggs, Ald. Nik Kovac, Matthew Kowalski, Chris Layden, Teresa Mercado, Michael Morgan, Marcelia Nicholson, Mark Sain, Jennifer Smith, Ald. JoCasta Zamarripa, Joan Johnson

EXCUSED: Erika Siemsen

STAFF: Maria Burke, Eileen Force Cahill, Enid Gruszka, Tammy Mays, Amanda McGillivray, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Amelia Osterud, Karli Pederson, Anne Rasmussen, Brett Rohlwing, Marian Royal, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske

OTHERS

PRESENT: MPL Foundation: Ryan Daniels, Pat Swanson
Washington D.C. Public Library: Richard Reyes-Gavilan, Executive Director
Milwaukee Poet Laureate Mario Willis

President Michele Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:08 p.m. on April 26, 2022 with a quorum present. All Trustees participated by video conference.

BOARD EDUCATION

1. **Urban Libraries Council (ULC) Executive Board Presentation.** President Bria introduced Richard Reyes-Gavilan, Executive Director of the DC Public Library. Mr. Reyes-Gavilan serves on the Urban Libraries Council Executive Board with President Bria and led a significant renovation of the Washington D.C. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. He shared a presentation on the building history, design and construction process, community engagement, and response. The building has been transformed from an outdated building in disrepair to an inviting, innovative, and award-winning destination. The Board thanked Mr. Reyes-Gavilan and commended him on his vision and the success of the project. Informational item.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 22, 2022**
3. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Innovation & Strategy Committee Meeting Minutes – April 5, 2022
4. **Administrative Reports**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director's Reports
 - c. Statistics

REPORTS

5. **Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting.** Trustee Mark Sain reported on the April 26, 2022 meeting.

Quarterly Review of Fund Investment Policy Revision Recommendation

Wayne Sattler, Senior Vice President & Managing Director and Head of U.S. Bank's Municipal Advisory Group, reviewed the quarterly Trust Fund performance. Mr. Sattler noted there are significant concerns in the market related to inflation, interest rate increases, supply chain issues, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The U.S. Bank's Asset Management Group recommends the following changes to MPL's investment policy:

- Add diversity to the MPL Trust Fund Portfolio by including global infrastructure as the Real Estate asset class, to mitigate volatility projected in the fixed income arena due to increases in inflation.
- Footnote that higher weight in infrastructure investments should go to U.S. Infrastructure to avoid risks associated with foreign markets.

The revised policy is expected to be in place for the next 3-5 years. The Committee moved to approve the investment policy revision as recommended. Trustee Nicholson moved to approve the investment policy revision; Trustee Morgan seconded. Motion passed.

Financial Statements and Auditors' Report

The Committee received the auditors' report from Reilly, Penner, & Benton LLP, who issued an unqualified opinion with no recommendations. Trustee Morgan moved to accept the report and place it on file; Trustee Layden seconded. Motion passed.

Contract Awards – Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library (WTBBL) and Interlibrary Loan Service (ILS)

Library Business Manager Sarah Leszczynski presented the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library (WTBBL) and Interlibrary Loan Services (ILS) contracts for approval. The agreement periods are July-June; the WTBBL total is \$1,136,100 and the ILS total is \$72, 200. The Committee moved to approve the 2022-23 WTBBL and ILS contracts. Trustee Morgan moved to approve the contracts; Trustee Kowalski seconded. Motion passed.

6. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting.** Trustee Kovac was excused from the April 25, 2022 MCFLS Board meeting. Library Director Joan Johnson will receive a briefing on a new marketing tool and updated privacy policy that is under consideration for use by MCFLS. Informational item.

POET LAUREATE

7. **Poet Laureate Introduction.** Public Services Area Manager Marian Royal introduced Milwaukee's new Poet Laureate, Mario "The Poet" Willis. Mr. Willis is a Milwaukee native and community activist. He is a self-taught poet who was mentored by Dasha Kelly Hamilton, former MPL Poet Laureate and current Wisconsin Poet Laureate. Mr. Willis is a two-time member of Milwaukee's National Poetry Slam Team and has workshopped extensively around the country. He is the co-creator and host of "Pancakes & Poetry," a community celebration during Milwaukee's annual Bronzeville Week Festival, has published three chapbooks, and produced two spoken word CDs. Mr. Willis looks forward to representing MPL and serving as a liaison to the slam poetry community. Following his introduction, Mr. Willis gave a dynamic performance of one of his poems. Informational item.

CLOSING REMARKS

President Bria noted the Board Officer election will be held at the annual meeting on May 24, 2022. President Bria's term is expiring and the nomination slate will be presented, with Trustee Sain as President, Trustee Layden as Vice-President, and Trustee Mercado as Financial Secretary.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of April 26, 2022 was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.
