

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
Tuesday November 28, 2017  
Central Library Community Room 1  
814 West Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53233**

**PRESENT:** JoAnne Anton, Ald. Milele Coggs, Ald. Cavalier Johnson, Ald. Nik Kovac, Chris Layden, Sup. Marcelia Nicholson, Joan Prince, Jennifer Smith, Paula Kiely

**EXCUSED:** Michele Bria, Sharon Cook, John Gurda, Dir. Mark Sain

**STAFF:** Joan Johnson, Eileen Force Cahill, Dawn Lauber, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Judy Pinger, Crystal Sura, Pat Swanson, Kelly Wochinske

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** Eric Pearson, Budget and Policy Division  
Frank Martinelli, Center for Public Skills Training

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In the absence of President John Gurda, Financial Secretary JoAnne Anton called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:45 p.m. on November 28, 2017 with a quorum present. Trustees Coggs and Smith participated by conference phone. Agenda items were taken out of order; however, these minutes are presented in numerical sequence.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** Ms. Mary Glass of Milwaukee Professionals Association LLC said the purpose of her attending the last and this Board meeting is to get further insight as to what the public library system is doing for city-wide input for broadband and neighborhood group. She is also seeking a timeframe for an annual study of Team Internet Net Neutrality (TINN) to explain how that will affect the citizenry and the mission of the library.

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**RESOURCES / RECOMMENDATIONS / RESEARCH**

1. **MPL 2020 – Progress Report**. The Trustees received the MPL 2020 Progress Report prior to the meeting. Director Kiely explained that the report identifies the ways the library has focused efforts on the citywide strategies identified in the library's Strategic Plan. The report is available to the public on MPL.org. Informational item.

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**CONSENT AGENDA**

2. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes October 24, 2017.**
3. **Administrative Reports.**
  - a. Personnel Actions
  - b. Financial Report
  - c. Library Director's Reports

Chair Anton asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda presented as attachment A, pages 3-40 of the agenda. Chair Anton entertained a motion to approve. Trustee Kovac amended the minutes to include Ms. Mary Glass in the list of others present at the meeting. Trustee Layden moved and Trustee Johnson seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Motion passed.

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## REPORTS

4. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board.** Trustee Kovac, Resource Library Representative, reported that at the September 30, 2017 meeting, it was announced that MCFLS Director Bruce Gay is resigning at the end of the year. An interview panel has been selected and candidate interviews have been scheduled for December 6, 2017. The discussion at the November 27 meeting included the approval of the cost to be charged to West Milwaukee residents for libraries services. West Milwaukee does not have its own public library. The Board approved the two-year lease agreement between the Federated system and MPL. The MCFLS audit contract was approved. The MCFLS budget was approved at the County's budget hearing. The 2018 Interlibrary Loan Service Grant between MCFLS and MPL was also approved. Informational item.

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5. **Library Finance and Personnel Committee.** Chair Anton said the committee met just prior to the Regular Board meeting. She moved approval to award the contract for Public Computer Access Control and Printing Software to TBS Solutions for \$45,473.00. Trustee Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed. The agenda and minutes of the Library's Finance and Personnel Committee are attached at the end of these minutes.

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6. **Building and Development Committee.** In the absence of committee chair Bria, Trustee Kovac provided the report from the November 2, 2017. The meeting agenda and minutes were listed as attachment B, pages 24-27 of the agenda. Trustee Kovac briefly summarized the committee's discussion. Updates were presented on the Mitchell Street Branch Condominium Association, the Good Hope Project development agreement, the Martin Luther King Project finance plan, and the committee's process on site-selection for a new library to replace the Capitol Branch. There were no action items. It was noted that since the committee meeting, the library learned our application to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for grant assistance for the Mitchell Street Pocket Park was not approved. Informational item.

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7. **MPL Foundation Report.** MPL Foundation Director of Philanthropy Patricia Swanson said year-to-date the Foundation has raised \$4,518,000, which is an increase of over \$3,000,000 from last year. Senator Kohl's gift that was announced at the Benjamin Franklin Awards Celebration accounted for most of the increase. Recent gifts include a Schoenleber Foundation grant of \$100,000 to launch a Learning Commons in the Business and Technology Department located on the second floor of the Central Library. Phase one of the project begins with installing co-working spaces with state of the art furniture that will create space for entrepreneurs, small business owners and independent professionals. The Foundation participated in Giving Tuesday. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation matched every gift up to \$50,000. Informational item.

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## OLD BUSINESS

8. **Budget Update.** The Milwaukee Public Library 2018 Adopted Budget Overview document was distributed at the meeting and is attached at the end of these minutes. Director Kiely said the library's salary budget is going to be reduced further due to a Mayoral veto that was

*ATTACHMENT A-P. 2 of 53*

*MPL CONSENT AGENDA*

*2.Regular Minutes 11/28/17*

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8. **Budget Update.** (continued)  
overridden. As a result, an additional \$58,000 will be added to MPL's "vacancy deduction," the savings credited by keeping positions vacant. The Mayor's proposed budget included a 4.3% vacancy deduct (\$565,000). The additional \$58,000 increases that to almost \$623,000 and increases the library's vacancy deduct to 4.8%. The library's overall budget is reduced by 1.9%. Discussion ensued regarding an amendment that creates an Office of Early Childhood Initiatives at MPL and will create a new position funded with special City funds. Informational item.
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9. **Wisconsin Library System Changes Update.** Director Kiely referred to attachment C, page 28-32 of the agenda. She summarized the Public Library System Redesign Update, dated November 20, 2017, highlighting the timeline. The Board was reminded that this is a State level project to improve the equity and efficiency of funding to public library systems, whose role is to support public libraries. There are currently sixteen Wisconsin library systems. Director Kiely said the models being developed will provide services in a different and consolidated manner with separate governance and administrative structures. Members from the Steering Team will meet with State Superintendent Tony Evers on December 5 to update him on the process. The final recommendation report will be drafted in May of 2018. Informational item.
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#### **NEW BUSINESS**

10. **Communication from City Council Members.** Trustee Anton asked the Board to read the letter from four members of the Common Council, dated November 10, 2017, listed as attachment D, page 33 of the agenda. Director Kiely noted that library administration is calculating the cost of keeping a branch library open until midnight on each day that it is now open. This expansion of hours is an increase of approximately 30%. Trustee Layden suggested that this item be forwarded to the Library Finance and Personnel Committee for further discussion. Trustee Kovac suggested that this could be topic of discussion at the February Board retreat. After a brief discussion, it was decided that Director Kiely will meet with the Alderpersons, provide the information, and inquire about intent and audience that led to the request. Chair Anton tabled the discussion until more information is available. Informational item.
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11. **2018 Milwaukee Public Library Proposed Public Service Hours.** The Milwaukee Public Library 2018 Public Service Hours, attachment E, page 35 was reviewed. The schedule maintains current hours. Trustee Prince moved and Trustee Chase seconded the motion of approve the 2018 hours as presented. Motion passed.
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#### **STRATEGIC DISCUSSION**

12. **Board Retreat.** Mr. Frank Martinelli from the Center for Public Skills Training, distributed a document titled MPL Scenario Development Process Work To Date and an Urban Libraries Council Statement on Race and Social Equity, attached at the end of these minutes. In preparation for the February 28, 2018 Board retreat, Trustees and the

12. **Board Retreat.** (continued)

Administrative Team were asked to complete a survey. Using the survey results, the MPL Retreat Planning Team proposed two critical uncertainties for developing scenarios: the relevance of MPL and resources to support MPL. Trustees and staff will form teams and be assigned to a scenario and answer questions on implications if a particular scenario was MPL's future. The scenarios that are developed will be examined during the retreat and discussion will lead to future decision making that will support the mission of the library. Informational item.

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With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of November 28, 2017 was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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