

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Video Conference Call by GoToMeeting

PRESENT: Michele Bria, Chris Layden, Jennifer Smith, Ald. Milele Coggs, Ald. Nik Kovac, Matt Kowalski, James Marten, Mark Sain, Ald. JoCasta Zamarripa, Joan Johnson

EXCUSED: Dir. Larry Miller, Sup. Marcelia Nicholson

STAFF: Rachel Arndt, Connor Bowman, Petra Duecker, Eileen Force Cahill, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Cat Mullen, Judy Pinger, Victoria Robertson, Victoria Sanchez, Rebecca Schweisberger, Erin Sloan, Emily Steuven, Kelly Wochinske

OTHERS

PRESENT: MPL Foundation: Ryan Daniels
City Attorney's Office: Gregg Hagopian
Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee (RACM): Rhonda Szallai
ICAP Development: Dan Jeserig
IMPACT Planning & Evaluation: Erin Malcolm, Brenna Ackert

President Michele Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:04 p.m. on September 22, 2020 with a quorum present. All Trustees participated by video conference.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

President Bria congratulated Library Director Joan Johnson on her official appointment and confirmation to the position. President Bria also congratulated Milwaukee Public Library Foundation for pursuing and obtaining a grant of \$100,000 from Impact 100. The grant will be used to purchase additional laptops and Hot Spots.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes July 28, 2020**
2. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting, July 28, 2020
3. **Administrative Reports**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director's Reports
 - c. Statistics

ATTACHMENT A - P. 1 of 13
MPL CONSENT AGENDA

1. Regular Board Meeting Minutes 09/22/2020

President Bria asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda presented as attachment A, pages 4-21 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

4. **MPL Board Committees**. President Bria presented the draft committee assignments and thanked the Trustees for their willingness to serve on the committees. Open seats remain on the Finance & Personnel Committee (F&P) and the Innovation & Strategy Committee (I&S). Trustee Sain volunteered to serve on the F&P Committee. Informational item.

REPORTS

5. **MCFLS Board Meeting**. Trustee Kovac reported on the August 17 and September 3, 2020 meetings. MCFLS has received Federal CARES grants which will be used by most members to upgrade wireless routers. Six proposals were received for the marketing RFP and three finalists were interviewed. The Board has made a selection and is in negotiation with the vendor. Glendale's Village Board voted to explore withdrawal from the North Shore Library. A new Board member will be sworn in before the next meeting. Informational item.
6. **Building & Development Committee Meeting**. Trustee Sain reported on the September 3, 2020 meeting. The Committee heard a proposal for the purchase of the former Forest Home library building by ICAP Development. Per the proposal, the site would be used for an 18,000 sq. ft. medical facility. The Committee moves to approve the sale of the former Forest Home library property to ICAP Development. Trustee Marten seconded. Motion passed. The Committee received updates about new and ongoing building projects, including a virtual tour of the Central Library Community Room renovation. General Capital Group confirmed their interest in continuing the project and is interviewing potential community partners. The proposed partner will be introduced at the October 1, 2020 Committee meeting and, if approved, will be moved to the full Board at the October 27, 2020 meeting. Trustee Sain expressed appreciation to General Capital Group for their continued efforts to move the project forward. Informational item.

OLD BUSINESS

7. **2021 Budget**. Assistant Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns provided a summary of the proposed budget for MPL. There will be no reduction in public service hours for 2021. Programs and services affected by budget reductions include Teacher in the Library and reduced Reference services in the Central Library Subject Services rooms. Library Administration is exploring options to offer these services in other ways and more information will be forthcoming. Providing important and necessary public services continues to be MPL's primary focus. The Common Council will have the opportunity to make amendments in late October and the budget will be finalized in early November. Director Johnson thanked Trustees for their support and discussions with the Budget Office and Mayor. Informational item.

NEW BUSINESS

8. **Temporary Hours**. Director Johnson summarized the proposed temporarily reduced hours, listed as Attachment C of the agenda. MPL staff has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic which has resulted in decreased staffing levels. Library Administration recommends keeping MPL locations closed on Sundays until adequate staffing is available. Additionally, an unprecedented level of voting activity is expected on November 3, 2020. Most branch libraries also serve as polling locations in addition to regular public service during open hours. Director Johnson recommends

closing branch libraries on Election Day 2020 to reduce the number of visitors to the buildings in order to maintain safety protocols while still supporting voting activities. Trustee Sain moved to approve the temporary hours; Trustee Marten seconded. Motion passed.

9. **Artwork Loan to Grohmann Museum.** Director Johnson presented a request to loan three MPL-owned paintings to the Grohmann Museum. Details about the artwork were listed as Attachment D of the agenda. The paintings will be on loan through December 2020 and will then be returned to the MPL collection. Trustee Sain moved to approve the loan; Trustee Kowalski seconded. Motion passed.

10. **LibraryNow Evaluation Report.** Director Johnson gave a brief overview of the LibraryNow initiative and introduced Erin Malcolm and Brenna Ackert of IMPACT Planning and Evaluation. Ms. Malcolm began with thanks to the MPL LibraryNow team for their work on the project. The final evaluation report was listed as Attachment E of the agenda. The evaluation used data from Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) to identify student outcomes and implementation findings. The report also included recommendations for continuing and expanding the program. Kelly Wochinske, Education and Outreach Services Coordinator, will take over as chair of the LibraryNow workgroup team. Library Education and Outreach staff answered questions about upgrading library cards through the program. Director Johnson offered thanks to Trustee Dr. Jennifer Smith for supporting the program and helping facilitate the partnership with MPS. She also thanked the MPL LibraryNow outreach team for managing the education and outreach to students and school staff as well as the IMPACT team for their work. Dr. Bria thanked the Milwaukee Public Library Foundation (MPLF) for their support of the LibraryNow program. Informational item.

11. **Closing Remarks.** MPLF Executive Director Ryan Daniels reminded Trustees about the upcoming Benjamin Franklin Awards Celebration. The event will be held virtually, for the first time, on October 1, 2020. The Foundation Board unanimously voted to present the 2020 award to all MPL staff.

Dr. Bria reminded Trustees the final report on financial sustainability will be presented by Wisconsin Policy Forum at the October 27, 2020 Board meeting. She encouraged Trustees to read the report prior to the meeting.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of September 22, 2020 was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.
