

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Video Conference Call by GoToMeeting

PRESENT: Michele Bria, Chris Layden, Ald. Milele Coggs, Ald. Nik Kovac,
Matt Kowalski, Dir. Larry Miller, Mark Sain, Ald. JoCasta Zamarripa, Joan Johnson

EXCUSED: James Marten, Sup. Marcelia Nicholson, Jennifer Smith

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

OTHERS

PRESENT: MPL Foundation: Ryan Daniels, Pat Swanson, Kristine Petersen
MPL Foundation Board: Mary Sprague
Wisconsin Policy Forum: Rob Henken, Ari Brown
General Capital Group: Linda Gorens-Levey, David Weiss
Emem Group: Michael Emem

President Michele Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:06 p.m. on October 27, 2020 with a quorum present. All Trustees participated by video conference.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes September 22, 2020**
2. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Innovation & Strategy Committee Meeting, October 14, 2020
3. **Administrative Reports**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director's Reports
 - c. Statistics

President Bria asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda presented as attachment A, pages 4-16 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

4. **2021 Budget Hearing.** Library Director Joan Johnson presented a summary of the proposed budget for MPL. The library budget will be reduced by 3% and represents about 3.8% of the City's total budget. There will be no branch library closures, no (budget-related) hours reductions, or layoffs. Some services at Central Library will be streamlined and the Teacher in the Library program will be cancelled, and staff will seek alternatives for providing homework help to students. MPL will commit to a vacancy rate of 6%, an increase from the 2020 rate of 5.6%. Additionally, the Office of Early Childhood Initiatives (OECI) will be moving to City Hall. Informational item.
5. **Financial Sustainability Task Force Report.** President Bria gave a brief overview of the task force directive and thanked Trustees Kovac and Kowalski for their participation on the task force. She introduced Rob Henken, President of Wisconsin Policy Forum, to present the final report, *Balancing the Books*, which is attached at the end of these minutes. Mr. Henken reviewed the key findings and range of options considered by the task force. Some of the preferred recommendations included strategies for long-term, permanent solutions that would require legislative changes involving the cooperation of state and local elected officials. For the near-term, the task force recommended an enhanced role for the MPL Foundation (MPLF) and an active consideration of changes to the MPL and MPLF relationship. Modifications to the partnership could include an increased contribution from MPLF or relaxation of the stipulation that its contribution may only be used to supplement library programs and activities. If these changes are implemented the stakeholders will also need to clearly define the terms of the public-private partnership. Discussion ensued regarding funding options. The final report will be presented to the MPLF Board within the next few weeks. A meeting of MPL and MPLF Trustees will be scheduled to explore the Foundation's capacity to raise additional funds, what the level would be, and investigate logistics for short term solutions. The Board thanked the MPL Foundation, its Executive Director, Ryan Daniels, and the Wisconsin Policy Forum team for their work. Informational item.

REPORTS

6. **MCFLS Board Meeting.** Trustee Kovac reported on the October 19, 2020 meeting. The marketing RFP was awarded and the Board is working to initiate a contract. MPL Communications and Marketing staff has consulted with MCFLS Director Steve Hesper regarding the marketing contract scope of work. The delivery contract with Action Logistics was approved. The Board discussed a system-wide materials quarantine minimum of 24-hours. Member library quarantine times range from 24-hours to 5 days. The City of Glendale has issued a public statement indicating it will be leaving the North Shore library shared agreement. MCFLS will research the outcomes and implications of that decision. Informational item.
7. **Building & Development Committee Meeting.** Committee Chair Mark Sain reported on the October 1, 2020 meeting. General Capital Group introduced Michael Emem, of Emem Group, as a community partner on the development team. The committee moved to approve the addition of Michael Emem to the Martin Luther King Library redevelopment team; Trustee Coggs seconded. Motion passed. Mr. Emem introduced himself and provided a brief overview of his professional experience. The committee received updates on the progress of capital projects. A new Facilities Manager has been hired and will be introduced at the next committee meeting. The committee received a virtual tour of the new Washington Park Teen Zone. Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) would like to use the former Mill Road library to house support staff and possibly for clinic use. MPL has been working with the Department of City Development (DCD) to facilitate the request. To begin the process, MPL must first declare the property as surplus. The committee moved to deem the former Mill Road library building as surplus for transfer to DCD; Trustee

Kowalski seconded. Motion passed. The committee moved to authorize MPL to enter into negotiations with MHD for a multi-year lease; Trustee Kowalski seconded. Motion passed.

8. **Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting.** Committee Vice-Chair Ald. Milele Coggs reported on the October 27, 2020 meeting. The committee received the quarterly Trust Fund account review from Wayne Sattler, Senior Vice President & Managing Director at U.S. Bank. The committee also received the quarterly Internal Controls report. Director Johnson presented the Library trust fund expenditure request for 2021, which was reduced from 5% to 3%. The committee moved to approve Director Johnson's request to use up to \$143,803; Trustee Sain seconded. Motion passed. Director Johnson reviewed the status of the 2021 MPL Foundation request to support library programs and initiatives. The final request will be presented to the committee at the January 2021 meeting. The committee made a motion to grant approval for Director Johnson to move forward with the request and continue discussion about it with Library Foundation Executive Director Ryan Daniels; Trustee Sain seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

9. **2021 Board Meeting Schedule and Committee Assignments.** President Bria referred to Attachment D of the agenda and thanked the Trustees for their willingness to serve on the Board committees. Informational item.

President Bria thanked Director Johnson and the MPL team for their work, especially during the pandemic and election.

Director Johnson announced the resignation of Rachel Arndt, Public Services Area Manager (Central). Mrs. Arndt thanked Director Johnson, the Board, and her colleagues at MPL for their support and well wishes.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of October 27, 2020 was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.
