

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
Tuesday October 24, 2017  
Mitchell Street Library Community Room  
906 West Mitchell Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53204**

**PRESENT:** JoAnne Anton, Michele Bria, Ald. Milele Coggs, Sharon Cook, John Gurda, Ald. Cavalier Johnson, Sup. Marcelia Nicholson, Joan Prince, Jennifer Smith, Paula Kiely

**EXCUSED:** Ald. Nik Kovac, Chris Layden, Dir. Mark Sain,

**STAFF:** Tony Frausto, Barbara Henry, Joan Johnson, Dawn Lauber, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Judy Pinger, Crystal Sura, Kirsten Thompson, Kelly Wochinske

**OTHERS**

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

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President Gurda called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:35 p.m. on October 24, 2017 with a quorum present. Agenda items were taken out of order; however, these minutes are presented in numerical sequence.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT** None.

President Gurda introduced Mitchell Street Branch Manager Tony Frausto. Mr. Frausto welcomed the Board. He said the staff are excited to continue to support the library's mission at Mitchell Street. He said he had managed the Forest Home branch, which was built in 1966, for three years.

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**RESOURCES / RECOMMENDATIONS / RESEARCH**

1. **Studio M.** Deputy Director Joan Johnson said one of the unique spaces in Mitchell Street branch is the maker space called Studio M. It is a place where patrons can learn and create. The space is equipped with a sound and video production studio. Other resources include materials and tools to support maker activities. A demonstration kitchen will support culinary and health literacies. The space will support several tracks of programming such as library generated programs, as well as partnership initiatives and community-driven programming. Informational item.
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**CONSENT AGENDA**

2. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes September 26, 2017.**
3. **Administrative Reports.**
  - a. Personnel Actions
  - b. Financial Report
  - c. Library Director's Reports
  - d. Communication from Council on Library and Network Development Chair

President Gurda asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda presented as attachment A, pages 3-40 of the agenda. President Gurda entertained a motion to approve. Trustee Cook moved and Trustee Bria seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed.

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## REPORTS

4. **Innovation and Strategy Committee.** The meeting agenda and minutes were listed as attachment B, pages 30-31 of the agenda. Chair Prince summarized the discussion around the committee's responsibilities and goals. Several suggestions and areas of focus emerged:

- Legislative affairs
- Strategic planning
- Board education
- Library best practices
- Value of library and its holdings
- Role of the 'tiny library'
- Generative role as thinkers
- Scenario planning
- Succession planning

The committee will add context on the themes and will work with staff to send out a survey to the Board. The survey will provide an opportunity for additional thoughts and rank the order of priority before the committee moves forward.

The committee discussed the Board retreat and will serve to assist staff in the preparation of the retreat, activities during the retreat and advising on any follow-up after the retreat. The Board retreat is scheduled for February 28, 2018. Informational item.

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5. **Library Finance and Personnel Committee.** Chair Anton provided a report from the October 4, 2017 meeting regarding the quarterly review of fund investments and internal controls, trust fund expenditures, gift, and MPL Foundation program report. The meeting agenda and minutes were listed at attachment C, pages 32-39 of the agenda. She said the committee accepted the U.S. Bank quarterly report on the investment performance of the library's trust fund.

Assistant Library Director Meyer-Stearns confirmed that the internal control procedures for the library's trust and gift funds were followed and there were no issues to report.

Trustee Anton moved the committee's recommendation to approve Director Kiely's request to expend up to \$144,738 from the Milwaukee Public Library Trust and Gift Funds for operational support during 2018, \$10,000 of which is restricted to support materials pertaining to art, travel, literature, or music. The unrestricted amount was based on 4% of the average value of the fund of the last 12 quarters. Trustee Bria seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Trustee Anton said the committee was asked if Mrs. Lucile Krug's bequest of \$850,000 to the library should be moved to the MPL Foundation's Quasi Endowment Fund. Trustee Anton moved the committee's recommendation that Mrs. Lucile Krug's gift of \$850,000 be advanced to the MPL Foundation. Half of the gift will be restricted to supporting the Rare Books collection and the MPL Foundation will be responsible for the direction of the funds moving forward to the wishes of Mrs. Krug. It was noted that large bequests to MPL should be reviewed individually. Trustee Prince seconded the motion. Motion passed.

5. **Library Finance and Personnel Committee.** (continued)

Director Kiely submitted a list that identified projects and programs that the MPL Foundation will be asked to support in 2018. Informational item.

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6. **Building and Development Committee.** Committee Chair Bria provided the report from the October 5, 2017 meeting regarding the Mill Road/Good Hope project and Martin Luther King redevelopment. The meeting agenda and minutes were listed as attachment D, pages 40-44 of the agenda. Chair Bria briefly summarized the committee's discussion. The committee reviewed an update on the design concept for the Good Hope project. The architect's revisions were made with consideration to the committee's suggestions. A previous concern was library parking spaces; the developer confirmed the library will have sixty parking spaces. Some suggestions were made about the signage that will identify the library space. Informational item.

Mr. Lavelle Young presented an updated financing plan for the redevelopment of the Martin Luther King library. One of the project sources is contingent on Bader Philanthropies Board's decision, on October 27, 2017 to fund the project for \$500,000. WHEDA and LISC have given their commitment to support the project. After discussing in closed session, "pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes sec. 19.85(1)(e), for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session," the committee was satisfied with the progress and direction of the financing plan. Trustee Bria also noted that the development team is in negotiations to acquire the adjacent lot north of the library to create 15 more parking spaces for the library. Director Kiely added that the library is working with a consultant and the developer to price out costs for the grey box. The City is investing \$2.35 million in the project and so is looking for \$2.35 million of value. Estimated library costs may be available at the January 4, 2018 Building and Development Committee meeting. Informational item.

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7. **MPL Foundation Report.** MPL Foundation Executive Director Ryan Daniels announced the Benjamin Franklin award celebration raised \$2.3 million. He noted that \$2 million was donated by award honoree Senator Herb Kohl. Mr. Don Rosanova was the other awardee. He was on the Foundation Board of Directors for fourteen years and his efforts helped the Foundation raise over \$2 million over the course of his tenure on the Board. The Foundation raised \$3.5 million compared to \$1.35 million at this time last year. The Foundation is working on year-end engagement of donors and launching a planned giving initiative. More information about the planned giving initiative will be shared next year. He noted that over \$700,000 in grant asks are currently pending. An award that was granted is from the National Endowment for the Arts, which will underwrite the programming related to Mitchell Street's alleyway. Informational item.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

8. **2018 Budget Update.** Director Kiely said the library's budget hearing before the Common Council's Finance & Personnel Committee was held on October 16, 2017. She noted that it

8. **2018 Budget Update.** (continued)

was an interactive hearing. At the close of the hearing, Alderwoman Coggs made a comment about the library and our innovation and forward thinking and management that seemed very heartfelt and the staff is proud to be recognized in this way. The library has not been contacted regarding amendments to the library's proposed budget. Informational item.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

9. **Trustee 2018 Meeting Schedule.** The 2018 MPL Board of Trustees meeting schedule was distributed and is attached at the end of these minutes. Trustee Anton moved and Trustee Cook seconded a motion to approve the schedule. Motion passed.

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**STRATEGIC DISCUSSION**

10. **Library Board Retreat.** Mr. Frank Martinelli from the Center for Public Skills Training, distributed a memo dated October 25, 2017, regarding a Retreat Planning Survey, attached at the end of these minutes. He will be facilitating a Board retreat that will focus on trustee governance on February 28, 2018. The survey responses will be anonymous and will help set the stage for the governance work the trustees will do during the retreat. The planning process will continue over the next several months and include a number of strategic thinking and analysis activities. Informational item.

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With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of October 24, 2017 was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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