

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Video Conference Call via GoToMeeting

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

EXCUSED: Sup. Marcelia Nicholson, Jennifer Smith

STAFF: Heather Berg, Maria Burke, Eileen Force Cahill, Tammy Mays, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Amelia Osterud, Karli Pederson, Anne Rasmussen, Victoria Robertson, Marian Royal, Rebecca Schweisberger

OTHERS

PRESENT: Budget and Policy Division: Mason Lavey
MPL Foundation: Ryan Daniels

President Michele Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:02 p.m. on January 25, 2022 with a quorum present. All Trustees participated by video conference.

Library Director Joan Johnson introduced Karli Pederson, Associate Director of Technical Services. Ms. Pederson gave a brief introduction and overview of her career with MPL.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

1. **Quarterly Review of Fund Investments.** On behalf of U.S. Bank, Vice President and Relationship Manager Richard Romero thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as the investment manager. Mr. Romero introduced Wayne Sattler, Senior Vice President & Managing Director at U.S. Bank. Mr. Sattler referred to the Account Investment Materials and provided a market overview. The investment performance of the trust fund for the period ending January 18, 2022 was reviewed. There were no recommended changes to the current portfolio allocations. Informational item.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes November 23, 2021**
3. **Special Board Meeting Minutes, December 13, 2021**
4. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes – December 13, 2021
 - b. Innovation & Strategy Committee Meeting Minutes – January 4, 2022
 - c. Building & Development Committee Meeting Minutes – January 6, 2022
 - d. Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2022
5. **Administrative Reports**
 - a. Financial Report

- b. Library Director's Reports
- c. Statistics

6. Updated MPL Board Meeting Schedule

REPORTS

7. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting.** Trustee Kovac reported on the January 24, 2022 meeting. Amy Krahn, St. Francis Library Director, is the new president of the Library Directors Advisory Committee (LDAC). The working hours of the Public Information Officer have increased from 25 to 30 hours. A new ad campaign will be launched to promote online courses for lifelong learning, job training, and language skills, all available through MCFLS member libraries. MPL Communications & Marketing staff was consulted for input on the campaign. Informational item.

 8. **MPL Foundation.** MPL Foundation Executive Director Ryan Daniels provided an update on fundraising activities. The MPL Foundation (MPLF) exceeded its projected and budgeted goals, raising over \$1.6M in 2021. In response to fundraising challenges caused by the pandemic, MPLF and MPLF Friends focused their efforts on individual relationships and donations. Long and short-term committee work continues and includes education about advocacy. MPLF engaged a marketing firm to help engage donors in post-COVID environment. A new MPLF website will launch in quarter 1 2022. MPLF looks forward to learning more about the MPL strategic plan and Board vision. MPLF is excited for the return of patrons to library buildings and more in-person programming. Library Director Joan Johnson and Director Daniels have met with donors and are looking forward to more participation and building relationships. Director Daniels shared he has received outstanding feedback about Director Johnson and her vision for MPL. The Board thanked Director Daniels, the MPLF team, and MPLF Board for their work during difficult times. The success of fundraising through individual donations expresses the importance of libraries to the community. Director Johnson thanked Director Daniels for his leadership. Informational item.
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NEW BUSINESS

9. **State Annual Report.** Dr. Bria referred to the Statement Concerning Public Library Systems Effectiveness, which was included as Attachment B of the agenda. The statement is part of the Public Library Annual Report presented to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). Each year, MPL is required to report on the effective leadership of Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS). During Steve Heser's 8-year tenure as MCFLS Director, MPL and other system members have received amazing support and great leadership. Trustee Kovac noted Mr. Heser is highly competent and well respected. Additionally, he is adept at navigating complex relationships and discussions. The Trustees agreed that MCFLS did provide effective leadership and adequately met the needs of the library. Trustee Sain moved and Trustee Kowalski seconded a motion to approve the statement, which will be signed by President Bria and sent to DPI as part of MPL's Annual Report. Motion passed.

Trustee Sain thanked Director Johnson and the MPL staff for their work on distributing N95 masks to the community in early January 2022. Director Johnson offered thanks to the Administration team for implementing distribution plans with short notice.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of January 25, 2022 was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Thursday, March 3, 2022**

Video Conference Call by GoToMeeting

PRESENT: Ald. Nik Kovac, Matt Kowalski, Chris Layden, Michael Morgan, Mark Sain, Joan Johnson

OTHERS

PRESENT: MPL: Maria Burke, Eileen Force Cahill, Ryan Hayes, Tammy Mays,
Sam McGovern-Rowen, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Anne Rasmussen, Marian Royal,
Rebecca Schweisberger
Moody Nolan: Jeff Jenó, Isoke Miller-Harris, Jonathan Moody

Chair Mark Sain called the MPL Board of Trustees Building and Development Committee meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. on March 3, 2022 with a quorum present. All Trustees and presenters participated by video conference.

1. **Approval of the Minutes.** Chair Sain entertained a motion to accept the minutes from the January 6, 2022 meeting, listed as Attachment A of the agenda. Trustee Morgan moved approval and Trustee Kowalski seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Project Inventory and Status Report.** The Committee reviewed the current project list. Library Facilities Manager Ryan Hayes noted the Center Street branch repairs are complete. Informational item.
3. **Mitchell Street Alley Project.** Library Director Joan Johnson shared an update on renovation of the alley space next to the Mitchell Street branch. In 2017 MPL worked with a landscape designer to create renderings of potential spaces, though the project was suspended as funding was not available at that time. Director Johnson shared the renderings with the Committee and discussed funding needed for each option. The Mitchell Street Alley project was selected for Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District's (MMSD) Gray-to-Green Parking Lot project which will provide up to \$3,000 in funding. MPL will install benches, planters, signage, and possibly a mural. This space will be used to help facilitate outdoor in-person programming. Library Construction Project Manager Sam McGovern-Rowen will lead the project and the Committee will be apprised on the progress. Mr. McGovern-Rowen thanked Mitchell Street Branch Manager Maria Burke for her work on this project, connecting with the Mitchell Street Business Improvement District, and garnering additional funds from MMSD. MPL staff will establish a process for selecting a local artist and will report back to the Committee. Informational item.
4. **Martin Luther King Branch Redevelopment Update.** Library Construction Project Manager Sam McGovern-Rowen provided an update on the project and introduced the Moody Nolan team. A potential temporary location is under consideration and a more detailed update is expected at the next Committee meeting. MPL and the development team meet regularly and are making progress on the development agreement. The project was awarded funding from the State Neighborhood Improvement Fund. Community input about design, features, and services for the new branch has been collected via a display at the branch and online. An in-person community meeting will be planned in the coming months. The Moody Nolan team shared a presentation about the proposed design and construction of the new building, including interior layout and exterior renderings. The design team took inspiration from Dr. King's life, his letter from Birmingham Jail, and the book *Where Do We Go From Here*. The overarching design ideas are 'Connection' and 'Reflection'. The Committee

asked clarifying questions and offered suggestions about the interior layout and design. Informational item.

The meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board's Building & Development Committee was adjourned at 8:56 a.m. on March 3, 2022.
