

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

Video Conference Call via GoToMeeting

PRESENT: Mark Sain, Chris Layden, Teresa Mercado, Michele Bria, Ald. Milele Coggs, Matthew Kowalski, Michael Morgan, Erika Siemsen, Ald. Scott Spiker, Joan Johnson

STAFF: Eileen Force Cahill, Tammy Mays, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Karli Pederson, Derek Reilly, Marian Royal, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske, Dana Zurek

OTHERS

PRESENT: MPL Foundation: Ryan Daniels, Antoine Carter

President Mark Sain called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:03 p.m. on July 26, 2022 with a quorum present. All Trustees participated by video conference. The agenda items were taken out of order; however, these minutes are presented in numerical sequence.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

1. **Trustee Recognition**. President Sain presented a resolution to Jennifer Smith thanking her for five years of service on the Board. Library Director Joan Johnson thanked Dr. Smith for her continued support, especially on implementation of the LibraryNow virtual card program. Informational item.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes June 28, 2022**.
3. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Innovation & Strategy Committee Meeting Minutes – July 1, 2022
 - b. Building & Development Committee Meeting Minutes – July 7, 2022
4. **Administrative Reports**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director's Reports
 - c. Statistics
5. **Revised Bylaws**.
6. **Committee Assignments**.

REPORTS

7. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting**. Library Director Joan Johnson reported on the July 18, 2022 meeting. MCFLS is required to complete a racial equity survey as part of the budget request to the Milwaukee County Executive's Office. Additional funding was

requested to support the work of the MCFLS Inclusive Services Committee. If approved, a portion of the additional funding will be earmarked for training, purchasing digital content with a racial equity and inclusion lens, and inclusive services assessments of all MCFLS members and locations. MCFLS hired new Business Manager Brittany Hornung, who will replace Judy Kaniasty upon her retirement in September. Director Johnson offered thanks to MPL Data Analyst Derek Reilly who served on the MCFLS Business Manager interview panel. Informational item.

8. **Services & Programs Committee Meeting.** Trustee Siemsen reported on the July 20, 2022 meeting. New Library Security Manager Carlos Lopez was introduced. The Committee received the second quarter Safety Report.

Anne Rasmussen, Associate Director of Strategic Initiatives and Public Services, presented two policy update requests:

- **Safe Child Policy.** The policy language was streamlined, the definition of caregiver was expanded, and updated directives to contact law enforcement only when there is a safety concern. The Committee agreed with the policy revisions and moved approval. Trustee Morgan moved to approve the policy revisions; Trustee Kowalski seconded. Motion passed.
- **Library Card Renewal Policy.** The revised policy allows patrons to renew their library card accounts without a requirement to pay fines to below the threshold of \$5.01. The Committee agreed with the policy revisions and moved approval. Trustee Siemsen moved to approve the policy; Trustee Mercado seconded. Motion passed.

The Committee heard testimony from Library staff regarding security incidents with a patron and supports the recommendation to issue a permanent ban. The Committee moved to ban Charles Williams from all MPL locations effective immediately. Trustee Sain moved to approve the ban and Trustee Coggs seconded. Motion passed.

9. **Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting.** Trustee Teresa Mercado reported on the July 26, 2022 meeting. The Committee accepted the Quarterly Review of Fund Investments and Quarterly Report of the Internal Control of the MPL Trust and Gift Funds.

Anne Rasmussen, Associate Director of Strategic Initiatives and Public Services, requested Board approval to close all MPL locations for up to one full day in fourth quarter 2023. If approved, the public will be notified of the closure in advance and it will be included in the 2023 schedule of hours. The Committee moved to approve a partial or full-day library-wide closure for staff training during the final quarter of 2023, as specified in the MPL REI Action Plan. Trustee Mercado moved to approve the request; Trustee Morgan seconded. Motion passed.

BOARD EDUCATION

10. **MPL Social Media Engagement.** Eileen Force Cahill, Community Relations and Communications Director, and Derek Reilly, Data Analyst, presented on MPL's social media presence and engagement. The MPL Social Media Team works directly with the Communications & Marketing department. The team is comprised of volunteer staff members who, in addition to their regular full-time work, lend their creativity and expertise to elevate MPL through social media engagement. Mrs. Force Cahill gave a brief overview of MPL's social media history, strategic framework, content process, and social media's role in engaging the community. Derek Reilly is part of the MPL Social Media Team. He presented statistical data related to social media and its engagement rates. MPL's Instagram account engagement increased from 763 in January 2022 to 5,749 in June 2022. MPL is one of the top library

accounts on TikTok and has received over 4M views. Popular MPL TikTok reels were shared with the Board. The Board commended the Social Media and Communications & Marketing teams for their creativity and expertise. Informational item.

CLOSING REMARKS

President Sain noted the Board will be on recess in August and will resume in-person meetings, starting with the September 27, 2022 meeting. The MPL Board Committee meetings will remain virtual. All Trustees are invited to attend the MPL Earn and Learn Intern celebration at Mitchell Street branch library on Thursday, July 28th at 2:30 p.m. The MPL Foundation Ben Franklin Awards Ceremony will be held on Thursday, September 22nd at the Wisconsin Club. Informational item.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of July 26, 2022 was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.
