

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

**Washington Park Branch
Finney Community Room
814 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53233**

- PRESENT:** Michele Bria, Teresa Mercado, Michael Morgan, Neil Albrecht, Ald. Milele Coggs, Matthew Kowalski, Ald. Larresa Taylor, Sup. Kathleen Vincent, Missy Zombor, Joan Johnson
- EXCUSED:** Ald. Andrea Pratt, Felicia Saffold
- STAFF:** Tim Fluhr, Ha Hoang, Dan Keeley, Yves LaPierre, Tammy Mays Wilder, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Amelia Osterud, Melissa Prentice, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske
- OTHER:** Budget & Management Division: Nathaniel Haack, Nik Kovac
Milwaukee Public Library Foundation: Sam McGovern-Rowen

Chair Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:15 p.m. on June 23, 2026 with a quorum present. Trustee Mercado attended virtually.

BOARD EDUCATION

1. **Washington Park Branch Introduction.** Library Services Manager Melissa Prentice gave a brief overview of her professional experience and an introduction of Washington Park Branch. Washington Park Branch opened in 2003, replacing the former Finney Branch. It is the second largest branch and one of the busiest in the MPL system. The expansive windows provide natural lighting, views of the park, and reinforce the connection between the library and the community. The open floor plan allows flexibility to arrange collections and seating. The makerspace and community rooms support a wide range of activities. Green infrastructure includes geothermal heating and cooling and a rain garden. A sculpture titled *Metaphor* is displayed in the lobby and symbolizes the library's role in gathering and sharing knowledge in the community. Washington Park Branch serves a diverse community, with nearly one-third of the residents under age 18. The branch also provides essential technology access, workforce resources, and lifelong learning for all ages. Community engagement and outreach services include Washington Park Wednesdays, neighborhood festivals, school visits, and childcare center outreach. Programs include story times, workforce development, weekly walking club, clothes mending clinic, and partnering with Washington Park Senior Center for a book discussion group. Washington Park Branch recently welcomed a new Children's Librarian, Makerspace Coordinator, and the 2026 Summer Youth Intern. Informational item.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

2. **Budget Outlook.** Budget and Management Division Director Nic Kovac presented an overview of the 2027 budget outlook. The presentation is attached at the end of these minutes. Director Kovac shared information about various factors impacting the budget and leading to a gap of \$97M. Director Kovac shared a link and QR code to a survey where community members can learn about

the City of Milwaukee budget and provide input for Mayor Cavalier Johnson as he develops his proposed 2027 City Budget. Informational item.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes May 26, 2026**
2. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Building & Development Committee – June 4, 2026
 - b. Executive Committee – June 10, 2026
 - c. Innovation & Strategy Committee – June 11, 2026
3. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting, June 2, 2026.**
4. **Administrative Reports**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director's Reports
 - c. Statistics

Chair Bria asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda, presented as attachment A, pages 3-31 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

5. **Closing Remarks.** Chair Bria shared information about the Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board and requested a volunteer to represent the MPL Board. Trustee Albrecht volunteered to serve as the MPL Board representative on the MCFLS Board. Informational item.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of June 23, 2026 was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.
