

# MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Central Library  
Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room  
814 W. Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

**PRESENT:** Mark Sain, Michele Bria, Teresa Mercado, Ald. Milele Coggs, Matthew Kowalski, Michael Morgan, Felicia Saffold, Ald. Scott Spiker, Ald. Larresa Taylor, Sup. Kathleen Vincent, Joan Johnson

**EXCUSED:** Venice Williams

**STAFF:** Chantel Clark, Melissa Howard, Yves LaPierre, Tammy Mays, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Karli Pederson, Marian Royal, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske, Jessica Wolf

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President Mark Sain called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:08 p.m. on May 27, 2025. Trustees Coggs and Saffold participated by conference phone.

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President Mark Sain introduced Jessica Wolf, MPL's new Library Human Resources Administrator. Ms. Wolf gave a brief overview of her professional and personal background and shared that she is excited to contribute to the library's mission.

### CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes April 22, 2025**
2. **Committee Reports**
  - a. Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes – April 22, 2025
  - b. Building & Development Committee Meeting Minutes – May 1, 2025
  - c. Library Services & Programs Committee Meeting Minutes – May 7, 2025
3. **Administrative Reports**
  - a. Financial Report
  - b. Library Director's Reports
  - c. Statistics

President Sain asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda presented as attachment A, pages 3-33 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

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### REPORTS

4. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting.** Trustee Kathleen Vincent reported on the May 12, 2025 meeting.
  - **Library Directors Advisory Council (LDAC) Highlights:** The Council discussed:
    - o Federal funding concerns regarding the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

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MPL CONSENT AGENDA

3. Regular Board Meeting Minutes - 05/27/2025

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- Advocacy efforts by the System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin (SRLAAW) through the postcard campaign.
  - A proposed 5% increase to the statewide digital library collection budget. The increase is scheduled to be approved by the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC) on June 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Great Library Treasure Hunt campaign attracted diverse participants across Milwaukee County and generated positive feedback. Informational item.
- **South Milwaukee Public Library Funding Status.** The South Milwaukee City Council commissioned a report from the Wisconsin Policy Forum regarding the future of library services in South Milwaukee. The report outlined several options for the city, including closing the library and paying for services through MCFLS, moving to a smaller space, or pursuing new mixed-use construction. The City Council is now reviewing the options. Informational item
  - **Library Support Postcard Campaign:** MCFLS Executive Director Steve Hesel presented an update on funding for IMLS. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) received notice that it will receive full funding for the remainder of the fiscal year, through October 1, 2025. The current federal budget for 2026 does not include funding for IMLS. A statewide awareness campaign has been developed to share community support for funding IMLS and libraries. Participation is optional and MCFLS member libraries will receive a batch of post cards. Patrons may complete the post card and return it to a participating library or through postal mail. Completed post cards will be sent to federal elected officials. Director Johnson requested authorization for MPL to participate in the post card campaign. Trustee Vincent moved to authorize Library Administration to participate in the IMLS 'Speak Up for Libraries' postcard campaign, utilizing gift or trust funds to cover postage fees. Trustee Mercado seconded. Motion passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

5. **Annual Bylaws Review.** President Sain referred to the MPL Board Bylaws, listed as Attachment B of the agenda. No changes were recommended. Per the bylaws, a review committee will be convened every 4 years. The next committee review will be done in 2026. Informational item.
6. **Summer Reading Program.** Kelly Wochinske, Library Public Services Area Manager (Education & Outreach), presented an update on MPL's Summer Reading Program (SRP). The 2025 SRP will highlight the library's role as a place of belonging and community. The SRP celebrates reading and growing with the theme 'Summer with MPL' and features all new artwork. Patrons are invited to participate in challenges at the library and MPL will also serve patrons at various locations in the community. Programming services offer youth access to materials, the opportunity to contextualize academic learning, practice in 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, and pro-social behaviors and relationship building. MPL is creating 'book chains' to celebrate reading choices and to share book recommendations. The SRP kickoff celebration will be held at Central Library on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Informational item.
7. **Closing Remarks.** President Sain and Library Director Joan Johnson recognized Marian Royal, Public Services Area Manager (Central Library), who is retiring on June 6<sup>th</sup>. All Trustees are invited to join Construction Projects Manager Yves LaPierre for a tour of the new Martin Luther King branch on Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Morgan gave kudos to the MPL Foundation and MPL staff for a successful and enjoyable Literary Luncheon on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

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With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of May 27, 2025 was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.