

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
Tuesday July 25, 2017  
Central Library  
Community Meeting Room 1  
814 West Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53233**

**PRESENT:** JoAnne Anton, Michele Bria, Ald. Milele Coggs, Sharon Cook, Ald. Cavalier Johnson, Ald. Nik Kovac, Joan Prince, Dir. Mark Sain, Jennifer Smith, Paula Kiely

**EXCUSED:** John Gurda, Chris Layden, Sup. Marcellia Nicholson

**STAFF:** Eileen Force Cahill, Ryan Daniels, Roberto Harrison, Barbara Henry, Joan Johnson, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Crystal Sura, Pat Swanson, Kelly Wochinske

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** Eric Pearson, Budget and Policy Division  
Tea Norfolk, Legislative Reference Bureau

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Vice President Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:37 p.m. on July 25, 2017 with a quorum present. Trustee Johnson was excused at 5:35 p.m. Trustee Coggs was excused at 5:50 p.m. They did not participate in the Executive Session. Agenda items were taken out of order; however, these minutes are presented in numerical sequence.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT** None.

Ms. Barbara Henry was introduced as the new Human Resources Officer for the library. Director Kiely introduced Mr. Skip Mosshamer from Libraries First.

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**RESOURCES / RECOMMENDATIONS / RESEARCH**

1. **Milwaukee Poet Laureate.** Mr. Roberto Harrison, Milwaukee's newest poet laureate, read two of his poems. He will represent the library during his two-year term, which is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Informational item.

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**CONSENT AGENDA**

2. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes June 27, 2017.**
3. **Committee Reports.**
  - a. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes June 21, 2017
  - b. Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes July 6, 2017
4. **Administrative Reports.**
  - a. Personnel Actions
  - b. Financial Report
  - c. Library Director's Reports
  - d. Communication from Mayor of Irpin, Ukraine

Vice President Bria asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda presented as attachment A, pages 3-31 of the agenda. Vice President Bria entertained a motion to approve. Trustee Anton moved and Trustee Cook seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed.

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## **REPORTS**

5. **Mid-Year Budget Report.** At the suggestion of the Library's Finance & Personnel Committee, Assistant Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns provided a mid-year financial report. The report lists expenditures through June of 2017 compared to 2016 for salaries & benefits, operating costs, and equipment. Spending is on target at 40-50% for mid-year. Ms. Meyer-Stearns noted that Teacher in the Library expenses are included in the operating budget. The Community Development Block Grant reprogramming funding has been approved and those programming costs will be offset by CDBG funds. Informational item.

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6. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board.** Trustee Nik Kovac, Resource Library Representative, reported on the July 17, 2017 MCFLS Board meeting. He said in response to discussions on lending limits, MCFLS staff prepared data on CD and DVD collection growth and circulation. The Library Director's Advisory Committee will revisit the issue of increasing circulation limits at a future meeting. The 2016 MCFLS Audit was approved. The MCFLS Board approved the extension of the Delivery and Sorting Services Contract with Action Logistics. Hoopla, a service that provides cardholders with movies, music & e-books has doubled in use over its predecessor Overdrive. Informational item.

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7. **Building and Development Committee.** Committee Chair Michele Bria provided the report from the July 6, 2017 meeting regarding the Mitchell Street, Mill Road/Good Hope, and Martin Luther King project updates. The meeting agenda and minutes were distributed at the meeting and are attached at the end of these minutes. Chair Bria briefly summarized the committee's discussion.

Vice President Bria stated her intention to convene in Executive Session, pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 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, for the purpose of deliberating over the Martin Luther King Redevelopment Project financing plan. Trustee Nik Kovac moved, Trustee Mark Sain seconded the motion. Roll was called and unanimously passed. Director Paula Kiely, Library Construction Project Manager Sam McGovern-Rowen, Assistant Director of Library Operations Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, and Administrative Assistant Crystal Sura remained during closed session. After discussion, the Board convened in open session on a motion by Trustee Sharon Cook, seconded by Trustee Joan Prince. In open session, the meeting was adjourned. Informational item.

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8. **MPL Foundation Report.** MPL Foundation Executive Director Ryan Daniels announced that the annual Benjamin Franklin Award celebration will honor former Senator Herb Kohl and Mr. Don Rosanova, president of Mariano's, for their contributions to literacy and lifelong learning. The event will be held on October 19 at the Central Library.

8. **MPL Foundation Report.** (continued)

The Foundation is hosting its first event for members of Lawyers for Libraries. A rooftop party is planned for July 27. The group is comprised of local attorneys representing Milwaukee's top law firms who value the library's essential services and programs in the community.

The Foundation has raised \$962,000 to-date compared to \$655,000 at this time in 2016.

Mr. Daniels announced that the library, along with partners from Artists Working in Education, Ex Fabula, and the Greater Milwaukee Association of the Deaf, was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts grant totaling \$150,000. The grant will assist the library with programming at the new Mitchell Street Branch.

The Foundation has two hundred new donors, and year-to-date, has contributed over \$785,000 to MPL for programs, materials and capital projects. Informational item.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

9. **Public Library System Redesign (PLSR)**. Director Paula Kiely said that in preparation for a two day PLSR Steering Committee meeting on July 12 and 13, she visited the Southwest Wisconsin Library System. It is a five-county system that is geographically large and consists of twenty-eight libraries that serve 162,000 people. The rural systems are often referred to as poor systems because the level of State-aid funding they receive is comparatively low. The Southwest System receives \$430,000 compared to \$2.8 million that Milwaukee County receives. Discussion with the directors included potential ways to work together. For example, one library did not have resources to offer computer training classes for seniors and MPL sent the curriculum to the library to get them started.

At the PLSR meeting, a new measure of success being discussed is race and social equity for all library systems in the State. During the meeting, the system directors were encouraged to engage and support the process. The Steering Committee is expected to make recommendations for system changes to the State Superintendent in July 2018. Informational item.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

10. **Gift.** Director Kiely explained that the Milwaukee Public Library was included as a beneficiary in the Will of Mrs. Lucile Krug, widow of former City Librarian Richard E. Krug. He served as city librarian from 1941-1974. During his tenure as city librarian he transformed the library system. His accomplishments included construction of an addition to the central library and development and construction of the system's branch libraries. The Krug Rare Books Room in the Central Library is named in their honor. Mrs. Krug gifted the library with \$850,000, half of which is designated for the Rare Books Room. Director Kiely asked that the Trustees acknowledge the gift with a letter sent from the Board. Trustee Cook moved that the MPL Board accept the gift from Mrs. Lucile Krug and that Director Kiely write a letter expressing the Board's appreciation for her generosity. Trustee Sain seconded the motion. Motion passed. The Library's Finance and Personnel Committee will discuss managing the money to advance MPL's vision and mission at its October 2017 meeting and will make a recommendation to the full Board.

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## STRATEGIC DISCUSSION

11. **2018 Budget.** Vice President Bria said that since the Trustees last discussion regarding the 2018 library budget, the reduction improved to \$425,000, instead of the initial \$1 million. Director Kiely met with the Library's Administration Team and prepared several scenarios to reduce service levels to meet the budget allocation. President Gurda and Vice President Bria reviewed the options and supported trimming service levels at Mill Road branch during construction of the new replacement library. Mill Road will see no loss of hours, but will function as a temporary limited-service library similar to those serving the East and Tippecanoe communities during recent construction projects. There will computer access, some materials, holds on materials can be placed and picked up, and reference questions could be answered, but there will be fewer staff in a reduced space. No positions will be lost, but several vacant positions will be held. The proposal also includes a flat budget for materials and enough capital funding to continue the redevelopment of the branch libraries. Mayor Barrett is supportive of the recommendation. After the Mayor presents his 2018 Proposed Budget, changes are still possible during the Common Council's department hearing process. The Trustees supported the recommendation. A brief discussion ensued regarding the future sustainability of the library system and what will work for years ahead if the budget continues to be reduced. Informational item.

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With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of July 25, 2017 was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

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