

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Tuesday March 26, 2019  
Central Library  
Community Room 1  
814 West Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53233**

**PRESENT:** Michele Bria, Ald. Milele Coggs, Ald. Nik Kovac, Matt Kowalski, Chris Layden, Ald. Michael Murphy, Sup. Marcelia Nicholson, Joan Prince, Dir. Mark Sain, Jennifer Smith, Paula Kiely

**EXCUSED:** James Marten

**STAFF:** Rachel Arndt, Hermoine Bell-Henderson, Eileen Force Cahill, Joan Johnson, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Judy Pinger, Anne Rasmussen, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** MPL Foundation: Ryan Daniels, Patricia Swanson  
City Attorney's Office: Rachel Kennedy  
Budget and Policy Division: Mason Lavey  
Redevelopment Authority: Dave Misky

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President Michele Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:06 p.m. on March 26, 2019 with a quorum present.

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President Bria thanked the Trustees for sharing their thoughts and ideas in the two-on-one meetings with her and Library Director Paula Kiely. The Mitchell Street branch library has been selected as a winner for The Milwaukee Business Journal's 2019 Real Estate Awards. All Trustees are invited to attend the awards luncheon on May 2, 2019. President Bria also shared MPL has received the 2019 Carnival Milwaukee Bridge Builder award, presented by the Urban Economic Development Association of Wisconsin, Inc. (UEDA).

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**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Director Kiely introduced Anne Rasmussen, the new Public Services Area Manager of branch libraries. Ms. Rasmussen shared a brief description of her experience working in various library settings. She is excited to be part of the MPL team and is looking forward to furthering the library's mission.

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**SERVICE HIGHLIGHT**

1. **Jobs/Workforce Development.** Rachel Arndt, Public Services Area Manager for Central Library Hermoine Bell-Henderson, Coordinator of the Business, Technology and Periodicals at Central Library shared information about MPL's job and workforce development efforts. Career Online High School (COHS) program is a scholarship program for adults to earn an

accredited high school diploma in a supported online learning environment. Students receive career preparation and certification in a variety of fields while building a career portfolio. The program is made possible by support from the MPL Foundation. Other programs include an annual Job Expo at Central library, Drop-in Job Help and computer classes, and a JavaScript Boot Camp co-hosted with UMOs.

MPL staff also make presentations on library resources during outreach visits to partner sites. All efforts have been based on strong community partnerships.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

2. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes January 22, 2019.**
3. **Committee Reports.**
  - a. Services & Programs Committee Meeting Minutes, January 10, 2019
  - b. Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes, January 22, 2019
  - c. Innovation & Strategy Committee Meeting Minutes, February 13, 2019
  - d. Building and Development Committee Special Meeting Cancelled, March 7, 2019
4. **Administrative Reports.**
  - a. Financial Report
  - b. Library Director's Reports

President Bria asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda presented as attachment B, pages 4-26 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the agenda was adopted.

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## REPORTS

5. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board.** Trustee Nik Kovac, Library Director Kiely, and Assistant Library Director Judy Pinger reported on the MCFLS Board Strategic Planning Session, held February 28, 2019. Although reciprocal borrowing was not included in the strategic planning process, it will likely be discussed later in the year as the current agreements run through 2019. Director Kiely gave Trustees an overview of the MCFLS reciprocal borrowing process and its impact to MPL. The results of the Public Library Systems Redesign (PLSR) project were shared at the Strategic Planning session. MCFLS engaged consultants to review and tabulate the discussion points and information shared at the session. Informational item.
6. **Bylaws Committee.** Committee Chair Jennifer Smith referred to the final draft of the revised bylaws, listed as Attachment C of the agenda. Ms. Smith explained the reasoning for proposed changes. A small number of changes were proposed and discussed. The updates will be made and the Board will vote on the final draft at the April 23, 2019 meeting. Informational item.
7. **Building and Development Committee.** Committee Chair Mark Sain explained the March 7, 2019 meeting was cancelled to allow more time to vet the responses received to the Request for Proposals (RFP) to redevelop Capitol branch library. Two proposals were received; however, one was incomplete. Library Construction Project Manager Sam McGovern-Rowen offered possible reasons a limited number of submissions were received

and explained how reissuing the RFP could achieve different results. In order to provide the Committee the greatest number of possible options, Chair Sain moved to reissue the RFP. Trustee Nicholson seconded. Motion passed.

Chair Sain also reported on the March 21, 2019 meeting. The Committee heard additional information from the development team about the proposal to renovate the Garfield Theater building as the new location for the Martin Luther King branch library. Discussion ensued about the white box and total project costs, building layout, and possibilities for the sale or transfer of the existing site. Several Trustees agreed it is in the best interest of library patrons and the community to be prepared to make a final decision soon. Informational item.

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#### **OLD BUSINESS**

8. **Gift – Elaine C. Lange Trust.** Director Kiely presented a memo about the options for distributing or transferring the funds from the Lange gift; the memo is attached at the end of these minutes. Director Kiely recommends selling the assets and transferring the proceeds to US Bank. Trustee Layden motioned to liquidate the holdings in the current trust held at Wells Fargo and have the cash proceeds transferred to the Library's investment account at US Bank. Trustee Nicholson seconded. Motion passed. Director Kiely will send a letter on behalf of the Board to Mrs. Lange's sister acknowledging receipt of the gift.
  
9. **Sale of Forest Home Branch Building.** President Bria moved into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes sec. 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 purchase price of the former library property at 1432 W. Forest Home Avenue. Roll was called and unanimously passed. Director Kiely, Executive Director of the Redevelopment Authority Dave Misky, and Administrative Assistant Rebecca Schweisberger remained in the meeting. The meeting was adjourned in closed session.

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With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of March 26, 2019 was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

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