

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Tuesday September 24, 2019**

**Central Library**

**814 W. Wisconsin Avenue**

**Milwaukee, WI 53233**

**PRESENT:** Michele Bria, Joan Prince, Ald. Milele Coggs, Ald. Nik Kovac, Matt Kowalski, James Marten, Ald. Michael Murphy, Mark Sain, Jennifer Smith, Paula Kiely

**EXCUSED:** Chris Layden, Dir. Larry Miller, Sup. Marcelia Nicholson

**STAFF:** Rachel Arndt, Eileen Force Cahill, Joan Johnson, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Judy Pinger, Anne Rasmussen, Victoria Robertson, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** MPL Foundation: Ryan Daniels  
Budget and Policy Division: Mason Lavey

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President Michele Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:08 p.m. on September 24, 2019 with a quorum present. Trustee Coggs participated by phone.

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President Bria thanked Library Director Paula Kiely and Library Construction Project Manager Sam McGovern-Rowen for providing a sneak preview tour of Good Hope Library, which will open later this year.

President Bria reminded the Board of the upcoming Benjamin Franklin Awards Celebration, presented by the MPL Foundation. The ceremony will be held on October 10, 2019 and Foundation Director Ryan Daniels invited all Trustees to attend.

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**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes July 23, 2019.**
2. **Committee Reports.**
  - a. Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes, July 23, 2019
  - b. Services and Programs Committee Meeting Minutes July 29, 2019
3. **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 3-35 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

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## REPORTS

4. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board.** Trustee Nik Kovac reported on the August 19, 2019 MCFLS Board meeting. The upcoming 5-year set of agreements were discussed and the Board is expected to vote on them in October. There may be changes to reciprocal borrowing and Resource Library funding. President Bria and Director Kiely thanked Trustee Kovac for his service on the MCFLS Board. Informational item.
5. **Building and Development Committee.** Committee Chair Mark Sain reported on the September 5, 2019 meeting. Lavelle Young, CEO of Young Development Group, will present additional renderings at the committee meeting on October 3, 2019. Also, he has been asked to engage a co-developer to help move the project to completion. Staff conducted a parking study and presented the findings to the Committee. There have been some delays on the Good Hope Library building and staff is working with MPL's owner's representative and the developer to resolve the issues. The Committee discussed funding for the co-working space being installed at Central Library. The Committee moved to allow Library Administration to use up to \$100,000 from the Elaine C. Lange Fund for the co-working space buildout, with a final report of the costs made to the Committee. Trustee Prince seconded. Motion passed. MPL continues to research sites and developers for the Capitol Library redevelopment. Informational item.

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## OLD BUSINESS

6. **2020 Budget.** Assistant Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns provided a summary of the proposed budget for MPL, which is attached at the end of these minutes. Factors affecting the 2020 budget include pay adjustments, increased security costs, and the return of full service to Good Hope Library. MPL is taking steps to offset budget reductions, including decreasing the materials budget and eliminating positions that have remained vacant for some time, as well as the six Library Technology Specialist positions. Changes to HVAC should result in cost savings as early as January 2020. The Common Council will have the opportunity to make amendments in late October and the budget will be finalized in early November. Director Kiely thanked Budget Analyst Mason Lavey for his help and guidance with preparing the budget. Informational item.

## NEW BUSINESS

7. **Task Force on Financial Sustainability.** The Innovation and Strategy Committee has begun assembling the task force. Following an initial meeting to secure the co-chairs, it was recommended the task force partner with the Wisconsin Policy Forum to help facilitate the work. Director Kiely presented a list of candidates for membership on the task force; it is attached at the end of these minutes. The goal is to have a task force comprised of individuals with a range of skills, knowledge, and strategic planning experience. President Bria moved to approve the roster; Trustee Smith seconded. Motion passed.

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8. **MPL 2020 Strategic Plan Extension.** Director Kiely gave a presentation of MPL’s strategic planning history and an overview of the plan extension. The current plan expires in 2020 and will be extended through 2022. In 2021 a new plan will be created to last through 2025. Data analysis and outcomes from the Board retreat have helped identify priorities, strategies, and timeframes for the current plan. MPL staff continues to use the strategic plan and feedback from the community as a guideline for creating programming and new service initiatives. The plan extension will focus on recruitment and retention, inclusivity, increased access to services, and technology. The Office of Early Childhood Initiatives was created in November 2018 and has been extremely successful in supporting the focus on families and children. MPL has hired a data analyst who is organizing data and working to identify different metrics to report to the Board. The Board discussed ways to continue building on progress and maintain library relevance by evolving with the population. There was agreement that literacy and reading remains a significant challenge and that MPL has an important role to play. Discussion about the strategic plan will continue at the October 22, 2019 meeting. Informational item.

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With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of September 24, 2019 was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

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