

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Video Conference Call via GoToMeeting

PRESENT: Michele Bria, Ald. Milele Coggs, Ald. Nik Kovac, Matt Kowalski, Chris Layden, Teresa Mercado, Michael Morgan, Sup. Marcelia Nicholson, Mark Sain, Jennifer Smith, Ald. JoCasta Zamarripa, Joan Johnson

STAFF: Eileen Force Cahill, Ryan Hayes, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Amelia Osterud, Matthew Pacyna, Judy Pinger, Anne Rasmussen, Derek Reilly, Rebecca Schweisberger, Nathan Self

OTHERS

PRESENT: Budget and Policy Division: Mason Lavey
Concord Group: Eamon Ryan
IBC Engineering: Fienna Zvenyach
Moody Nolan: Yanitza Brongers, Jeff Jenó, Renauld Deandre Mitchell, Curt Moody, Johnathan Moody,
MPL Foundation: Pat Swanson

President Michele Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:11 p.m. on May 25, 2021 with a quorum present. All Trustees participated by video conference. The agenda items were taken out of order; however, these minutes are presented in numerical sequence.

President Bria congratulated Library Director Joan Johnson on being named a 2021 Woman of Influence by the *Milwaukee Business Journal*. On May 4, 2021 Director Johnson also represented MPL at a community roundtable meeting with Vice President Kamala Harris. The meeting, hosted by former MPL Trustee Dr. Joan Prince, focused on infrastructure investment and innovation.

Director Johnson shared President Bria has been nominated to the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) 2021-22 Executive Board slate. The Executive Board is comprised of member library directors, library and/or foundation trustees, and public members who are civic, business, government, or philanthropic leaders. The slate vote will be held on June 17, 2021.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

1. **Introduction of Martin Luther King Branch Architect.** Library Construction Project Manager Sam McGovern-Rowen gave a brief overview of the project and introduced Renauld Mitchell, Director of Operations for Moody Nolan. Mr. Mitchell thanked the Board for the opportunity to work on this project and introduced the Moody Nolan principles and design team. The design team will include a Director of Housing who will coordinate efforts with the development team. Curt Moody, Moody Nolan founder and board chair, also thanked the Board and stated the firm takes pride in creating a building with the Dr. King namesake. The Moody Nolan team looks forward to working with MPL, the Board, and the community. Director Johnson noted the library

redevelopment will be an anchor project for extensive development along Martin Luther King Drive. Informational item.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes April 27, 2021.**
3. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Services & Programs Committee Meeting Minutes – May 5, 2021
 - b. Building & Development Committee Meeting Minutes – May 6, 2021
4. **Administrative Reports**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director’s Reports
 - c. Statistics
5. **Annual Bylaws Review.**

President Bria asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda presented as Attachment A, pages 4-25 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

REPORTS

6. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting.** Trustee Kovac reported on the May 17, 2021 meeting. The reciprocal borrowing calculations were reviewed and, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board voted to keep the current calculations based on typical member annual statistics. The Board discussed the 2022 County budget request, which will be finalized at the June meeting. Informational item.
7. **Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting.** Substitute Chair Marcelia Nicholson reported on the May 5, 2021 meeting. The Committee received the auditors’ report from Reilly, Penner & Benton, LLP, who issued an unqualified opinion with no recommendation. The Committee moved to accept the report and place it on file; Trustee Sain seconded. Motion passed. The Committee moved to approve the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library (WTBBL) and Interlibrary Loan Service (ILS) 2021-2022 contracts. Trustee Layden seconded. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

8. **COVID-19 Response and Recovery.** Director Johnson reported on upcoming service changes and possible projects. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have updated their recommendations for masking requirements. At this time, masking is still required for all visitors and employees in City buildings, including the library. MPL is close to reinstating some services at branch libraries. In early June, adult and children’s collections at branches will reopen for browsing. Director Johnson thanked the Board for authorization to modify the materials quarantine as needed and noted it will end before the stacks are opened for browsing. Managers are working on the Central Library reopening plan. Additional factors to be considered for Central Library include reduced staffing and adjustments to the cleaning protocols and schedules for a much larger building. MPL submitted 12 applications to the Budget Office for potential funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Library priorities for consideration are:
 - Green Infrastructure, with features to support outdoor and educational programming.

- Broadband access expansion to households in select neighborhoods. While the project is being considered and developed, a mobile wi-fi van will be dispatched on a regular route to help provide additional free access to the community.
- Community circles and restorative practices with a focus on teens and families. The program will expand to more MPL branches.
- Reach Out and Read
- Community Archive

The Budget Office is still reviewing applications and will meet with Department heads before final decisions are made. Informational item.

BOARD EDUCATION

9. **Summer Reading Program.** Youth Services Coordinator Kelly Wochinske shared information about MPL’s summer reading programs, which will run June 1-August 31, 2021. MPL offers high-quality summer reading programs for children, teens, and adults. The programs will be managed through an online platform called Beanstack and will allow participants to track their reading and learning activities. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Public Instruction purchased access to Beanstack for all public libraries in Wisconsin. Although activities will be held virtually, libraries will be open for families to select materials and talk with staff to learn more about the programs.

The Super Reader Squad is returning for the children’s summer reading program, which encourages learning through experiences and discovery. The program focuses on early literacy and encourages children to develop their identity as a reader by choosing their own materials to read, create, and discover. Additionally, participants are encouraged to ‘learn by doing’ with a variety of learning tracks and suggestions for activities. Virtual programming includes author visits, story times, and partnerships with community organizations, including Milwaukee Public Museum and local dance schools. Families can also take home book bundles and craft projects.

Victoria Sanchez, School-age Education and Outreach Specialist, presented information about summer reading outreach to childcares and organizations serving school-age children. These outreach programs are designed to ensure children throughout the city have the opportunity to participate in summer reading programs, even if they are not able to come to the library. The new outreach model that was developed last year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic will be built upon for summer 2021. Outreach staff will maintain connections to childcare providers via phone and email. Staff will also support providers by offering materials, resources, and coaching. Book giveaways will be offered to all childcare centers to provide each child a book to take home. MPL outreach will also work with staff at community organizations hosting school-age children for the summer. Outreach staff will hold weekly virtual visits with each organization to share read-alouds and book-based activities. Book collections will also be provided to each partner site and will receive book giveaways.

Petra Deucker, Teen Education and Outreach Specialist, shared information on the Teen Summer Challenge. The Teen Summer Challenge will focus on helping teens read, create, and discover while also being customizable, developmentally appropriate, and engaging. Teen summer reading programs focus on broader learning outcome goals, including 21st century skills, social-emotional development, and college/career readiness. The 2021 Teen Summer Challenge theme is a Public Art Scavenger Hunt. The program goal is to encourage young people to safely get out and enjoy the city by exploring public art in Milwaukee neighborhoods. Participants will be provided maps and tickets for Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS). Progress will be tracked online and teens can

engage in digital programming via social media platforms. Prizes will include gift cards to local businesses with a bicycle as the grand prize. Trustees are invited to sign up for the Book by Book Adult Summer Reading Program and to share information about the summer reading programs with their networks. Informational item.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of May 25, 2021 was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.
