

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, June 28, 2022

Video Conference Call via GoToMeeting

PRESENT: Mark Sain, Teresa Mercado, Michele Bria, Ald. Milele Coggs, Matthew Kowalski, Michael Morgan, Erika Siemsen, Ald. Scott Spiker, Joan Johnson

EXCUSED: Chris Layden, Jennifer Smith

STAFF: Maria Burke, Eileen Force Cahill, Tammy Mays, Amanda McGillivray, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Karli Pederson, Marian Royal, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske

OTHERS

PRESENT: Budget & Policy Division: Mason Lavey
MPL Foundation: Ryan Daniels, Pat Swanson, Antoine Carter

President Mark Sain called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:05 p.m. on June 28, 2022 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.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

1. **Introduction of New Trustee.** President Sain introduced new Trustee Alderman Scott Spiker. Trustee Spiker shared a brief overview of his professional background and experience as a MPL patron. He is very happy to be part of the MPL Board and looks forward to working with the Trustees. Informational item.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes May 24, 2022.**
3. **Updated Committee Assignments.**
4. **Administrative Reports**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director's Reports
 - c. Statistics

REPORTS

5. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting.** Library Director Joan Johnson reported on the June 20, 2022 meeting. MCFLS currently has a significant year to date investment fund debit due to losses on interest of invested funds. This loss exposed the level of vulnerability of state aid allocated to the system. Additional losses could potentially impact member libraries. MCFLS Director Steve Hesser will meet with Milwaukee County representatives to discuss the account and potential remedies. A task force made up of MCFLS staff and representatives from

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MPL CONSENT AGENDA

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member libraries reviewed the integrated library system catalog and negotiated very favorable terms for contract renewal with the vendor. The cost of the new 5-year contract is 46% lower than the initial offer and provides enhanced services. MCFLS Business Manager Judy Kaniasty is retiring at the end of summer; interviews are underway for her successor. Trustee Siemsen looks forward to taking over MCFLS Board reporting after her appointment is confirmed by the County Board. Informational item.

6. **Library Executive Committee Meeting.** President Sain reported on the action items from the June 16, 2022 meeting.

DPI Inclusive Services Statement. The Committee moved to approve adoption of the DPI Inclusive Services Statement. The document states explicitly that library services should be inclusive for everyone, regardless of race, gender, age, or any other demographic status. It is also a statement of commitment from library leadership and staff to continuously look for ways to improve access to materials, services, spaces, and programs. Trustee Bria moved to approve the statement and recommend its adoption; Trustee Morgan seconded. Motion passed.

Bylaws Revision. The Committee moved to update Article 3, Section 3 of the Bylaws regarding the role and responsibilities of the Board Financial Secretary to align the Bylaws with current practices. A statement regarding sending monthly reports to the Financial Secretary will be struck. A new statement indicating the monthly Trust Fund statements will be reviewed by Library Administration will be added. Trustee Bria moved to approve the Bylaws amendment; Trustee Kowalski seconded. Motion passed.

7. **MPL Foundation Report.** MPLF Executive Director Ryan Daniels presented an update on Foundation activities and fundraising. Year to date, the MPL Foundation has raised \$2.2M. This includes grants to fully fund the AmeriCorps program for 3 years and matching donations from several local philanthropies. MPLF has also received several multi-year and corporate gifts. Director Daniels presented the updated MPLF website and demonstrated several new ways it engages the community and donors. Informational item.

BOARD EDUCATION

7. **Friends of MPL.** MPLF Executive Director Ryan Daniels presented information about the Friends of MPL Board and services. The Friends generate revenue for the Foundation by selling materials through The Bookseller at Central Library and hosting author events, including the Spring Literary Luncheon. The Friends also staff the Central Library Docent Tours, which emphasizes the history and architecture of the building. Director Daniels ‘tested’ the Trustees knowledge about the MPL Foundation and Friends of MPL via a lively game of ‘Library Jeopardy’. The Board thanked Director Daniels and the MPLF staff for their work on behalf of MPL. Informational item.

CLOSING REMARKS

President Sain reported on new MPL Poet Laureate Mario ‘The Poet’ Willis’ Inaugural Reading. The event was well attended with a diverse group of participants. President Sain thanked Director Johnson, Library Public Services Area Manager (Central) Marian Royal, MPL staff, and the MPL Foundation for hosting the event. Informational item.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of June 28, 2022 was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.
