

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
Tuesday January 23, 2018  
Central Library Community Room 1  
814 West Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53233**

**PRESENT:** JoAnne Anton, Michele Bria, Ald. Milele Coggs, Sharon Cook, John Gurda, Ald. Cavalier Johnson, Ald. Nik Kovac, Chris Layden, Sup. Marcelia Nicholson, Jennifer Smith, Paula Kiely

**EXCUSED:** Joan Prince, Dir. Mark Sain

**STAFF:** JeTaun Colbert, Barbara Henry, Joan Johnson, Eileen Force Cahill, Dawn Lauber, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Judy Pinger, Crystal Sura, Pat Swanson, Kelly Wochinske

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** Frank Martinelli, Center for Public Skills Training

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President John Gurda, called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:45 p.m. on January 23, 2018 with a quorum present. Trustee Coggs participated by conference phone. Several Trustees were excused before the meeting adjourned; however a quorum was maintained throughout the meeting.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT** none

Ms. JeTaun Colbert was introduced as the new Washington Park Branch manager.

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**RESOURCES / RECOMMENDATIONS / RESEARCH**

1. **Net Neutrality.** Ms. Judy Pinger, Assistant Library Director, presented a brief background and history on net neutrality and the potential impact on public libraries in general and Milwaukee Public Library in particular. The Federal Communications Commission's vote in December 2017 to repeal net neutrality has the possibility to greatly alter the Internet landscape as we now utilize it. The current net neutrality legislation mandates that Internet service providers provide equal access to all data regardless of bandwidth and content. The repeal of net neutrality would result in Internet Service Providers having the ability to restrict and control internet traffic based on a fee based platform. The impact on libraries would be significant as many of our patrons receive Internet access at the library and rely on the open web for their many informational, educational and recreational needs. President John Gurda suggested sending a letter to Wisconsin Senators advocating for the importance of net neutrality for libraries. Informational item.

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**CONSENT AGENDA**

2. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes November 28, 2017.**
3. **Committee Reports.**
  - a. Innovation and Strategy Committee Meeting Minutes December 6, 2017
  - b. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes December 8, 2017

4. **Administrative Reports.**
  - a. Personnel Actions
  - b. Financial Report
  - c. Library Director's Reports

President Gurda asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda presented as attachment A, pages 3-55 of the agenda. Trustee Cook asked about the decrease in unique visitors listed on the Computer, Internet, and Electronic Statistics. Ms. Pinger said late last year, it was discovered there was a miscount of internal hits to CountyCat's Web page, which has since been corrected. President Gurda entertained a motion to approve. Trustee Anton moved and Trustee Cook seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Motion passed.

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## REPORTS

5. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board.** Trustee Nik Kovac, Resource Library Representative, gave a report from the January 22, 2018 MCFLS Board meeting. The Board met in executive session and selected Mr. Steve Hesper as the new MCFLS Director. Mr. Hesper, who accepted the position, was most recently MCFLS's Systems Administrator. The election of officers was approved, President Paul Ziehler, Vice-President Paula Pennebaker and Treasurer Nik Kovac. Informational item.

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6. **MPL Finance and Personnel Committee.** The committee received the US Bank Market Review and Outlook report dated December 2017 prior to the meeting. Chair JoAnne Anton reported that at the January 23, 2018 Finance and Personnel meeting held earlier, the advisor from US Bank reviewed MPL's Trust Fund investments and did not recommend any changes to the portfolio.

Financial Secretary Anton said the usual quarterly report on internal accounting controls was provided, finding nothing out of order.

Financial Secretary Anton moved the committee's recommendation to award the contract for Financial and Compliance Audit Services of the Milwaukee Public Library Trust Fund to Reilly, Penner, & Benton. Trustee Bria seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Library administration is working on an agreement with Ancestry.com for an institutional level lifetime membership to Ancestry.com in exchange for digitizing MPL's collection of Milwaukee County vital records.

The January 23, 2018 committee agenda, minutes and audit memo are attached at the end of these minutes.

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7. **MPL Foundation Report.** MPL Foundation Director of Philanthropy Pat Swanson shared that the Foundation raised \$4.7 million in 2017, a \$3.4 million increase over the previous year. The Foundation also has attracted 425 new donors.

Cargill Corporation has donated \$100,000 to support the community kitchen with culinary literacy programs and classes at the Mitchell Street branch.

Foundation staff have recently rebranded the planned giving campaign, naming it the Legacy Leaders Society. A new brochure will be mailed and a information session kickoff event will be held in April during National Library week.

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8. **Branch Redevelopment.** Library Construction Project Manager Sam McGovern-Rowen provided an update and reviewed the schedule for all projects. The city attorney's office and developer Royal Capital LLC and Maures Development Group are working through final details of the Good Hope Project Development Agreement. Mr. McGovern-Rowen is working to determine the final pricing of the scope of the white box. The anticipated closing of financing is mid-March. Ground-breaking for the mixed-use facility located at 7717 W. Good Hope Road will take place this spring. The Grand opening of the new 17,500 square foot library is expected in summer of 2019. The library team, along with Zimmerman Architectural Studios Inc. has been meeting regularly to design the library space. A final community meeting will be scheduled in February. The final design of the library will be presented to the Building and Development Committee in March, with a recommendation to the full Board at its regular meeting on March 27, 2018. The update on the mixed-use project that will replace the current Martin Luther King Library at 310 W. Locust Street is that Young Development continues to wait for a decision from Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) as to whether they received an allocation in new market tax credits. The team continues to work on the financing package and design to prepare for the WHEDA announcement. In anticipation of replacing the Capitol library, library administration has been researching sites and presenting demographics to the Building and Development Committee. The RFP for a developer will be site specific. Informational item.
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#### **OLD BUSINESS**

9. **Board Retreat.** Consultant Frank Martinelli distributed the MPL Board of Trustees Governance Retreat Agenda draft for the February 28, 2018 retreat, attached at the end of these minutes. Mr. Martinelli briefly summarized the session that will include presentations of four future MPL scenarios. The Trustees will discuss the implications that the scenarios will have on Board governance and develop strategies that are relevant in any of the scenarios. The goal is to provide opportunities for MPL leadership to hone their strategic and generative analysis and decision-making skills, thereby enhancing the Board of Trustees capacity to govern effectively in the future. Informational item.
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10. **Communication from City Council Members.** Director Kiely said that she will meet with Alderman Kahlif Rainey regarding his communication on expanding library hours and will provide more information to the Board following that discussion. Informational item.
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#### **NEW BUSINESS**

11. **Nominating Committee.** President Gurda appointed Trustees Prince, Johnson and himself to serve on a committee to nominate Board officers for the 2018-2020 term. A Nominating Committee meeting will be scheduled in spring. The election will be held on May 22, 2018. Informational item.
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#### **STRATEGIC DISCUSSION**

12. **Urban Library Council – Equity Statement.** The Board considered formal adoption of the Statement on Race and Social Equity developed by members of the Urban Libraries Council, attachment B, page 56 of the agenda. The trustees reviewed the document which summarized ways library systems are working to achieve equity in the communities they serve. Discussion ensued. Trustee Kovac made a motion to accept the document. Trustee Bria seconded the motion. Motion passed.
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With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of January 23, 2018 was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.