

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Tuesday May 28, 2019**

**Central Library**

**Richard E. and Lucile Krug Rare Books Room**

**814 West Wisconsin Avenue**

**Milwaukee, WI 53233**

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

**EXCUSED:** Jennifer Smith

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

**OTHERS**

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

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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 May 28, 2019 with a quorum present.

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**BOARD ACTIVITIES**

1. **Introduction of Returning Board Member.** President Bria reintroduced Trustee Mark Sain as a new Citizen Member appointed by Mayor Barrett. Trustee Sain is eager to continue his service on the Board. He appreciates and respects the Library's work and is looking forward to more years of service. Informational item.
2. **Introduction of New Board Member.** President Bria introduced Milwaukee Public School Board President Larry Miller. Trustee Miller is looking forward to serving on the MPL Board. Informational item.
3. **Committee Assignments.** President Bria presented the new Committee appointments. The list of appointments is attached at the end of these minutes. Informational item.
4. **Board Assessment.** Innovation and Strategy Committee Chair Joan Prince informed the Board the assessment will be sent via email in the week of June 3, 2019. She encouraged all Trustees to complete the assessment in a timely manner. The results of the assessment will inform Board operations and decisions in the future. Informational item.

### **SPECIAL COMMUNICATION**

5. **2020 Budget.** City of Milwaukee Budget and Management Director Dennis Yaccarino presented information about the projected 2020 budget. Cost overruns in 2018 coupled with lower than anticipated revenues have resulted in reductions to the 2020 budget. The Budget Department is working with all City departments to ensure they stay within budget. Assistant Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns presented a summary of the Library's requested 2020 budget which is greater than the 2019 budget. Many factors led to the increase, including higher security contract costs, pay progressions resulting from a market study of librarian salaries, and the return of full service to Good Hope Library (formerly Mill Road Library). Discussion ensued about possible options for cost savings. Plans for library redevelopment will not be affected. Staff will provide updates and more details at the Finance & Personnel Committee meeting on July 23, 2019. Informational item.

### **SERVICE HIGHLIGHT**

6. **Hot Spots.** Assistant Library Director Judy Pinger introduced the Hot Spot pilot program. Hot Spots are portable wireless access points that connect up to 10 devices to the Internet. The goal of the Hot Spot program is to improve digital inclusion in Milwaukee by providing Internet access in homes that may not currently have it. The program is being tested at 3 MPL branch libraries. During the 6-month pilot, 50 Hot Spot devices are available for checkout. The MPL Foundation has received a significant grant to fund Hot Spot devices for the Harambee Neighborhood. MPL is surveying users to gather information which will help inform decisions about expanding the program. Informational item.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

7. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 26, 2019.**
8. **Committee Reports.**
  - a. Innovation & Strategy Committee Meeting Minutes, April 17, 2019
  - b. Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes, April 23, 2019
9. **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 4-30 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

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### **REPORTS**

3. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board.** Public Services Area Manager (Central Library) Rachel Arndt provided an update on the May 20, 2019 meeting. The Sierra server will be replaced at a cost lower than expected. Funds from the cost savings will be used to replace the Encore server. The MCFLS Strategic Plan, Mission, and Vision Statement were approved by the MCFLS Board. MCFLS Director Steve Hesel will submit the 2020 county budget request with a letter providing specific examples of how county funding supports MCFLS. Milwaukee County Supervisor Steven Shea was appointed

to the MCFLS Board. The Board discussed options to modify use of Hoopla, a web and mobile library media streaming platform. Current usage trends indicate changes are necessary to stay within budget for this service. The Library Directors Advisory Council will review the data, evaluate the options, and make a recommendation to the Board for a final decision. Informational item.

4. **Building and Development Committee.** Committee Chair Mark Sain reported on the May 2, 2019 meeting. Request for Proposal (RFP) responses have been received for the sale and reuse of the former Forest Home library and Villard library properties. The responses will be presented to the Committee following review and scoring. RFP responses for the redevelopment of the Capitol Library will be reviewed with a panel made up of staff, developers, and Department of City Development staff. The proposals will be presented at the June 17, 2019 meeting.

The Committee moved to decline the Garfield Theater proposal and further moved the Committee discuss with the development team of Young Development Group and Haywood Group the option of returning to the original, approved plan on the current library property with possible adjoining parcels and partners, and a recommendation as to the feasibility of proceeding with such plan be submitted to Library Administration by July 8, 2019 and brought before the Committee at the July 11, 2019 meeting. Trustee Murphy seconded. Motion passed. Library Director Paula Kiely and Library Construction Project Manager Sam McGovern-Rowen met with Lavelle Young, of Young Development Group, to clarify expectations and ensure continuing communication. Informational item.

5. **Services and Programs Committee.** Committee member Marcelia Nicholson reported on the May 6, 2019 meeting. The Committee heard testimony from Library staff regarding security incidents with a patron and supports the recommendation to issue a permanent ban. The Committee moves to permanently ban Leonard Hardy from all MPL locations effective immediately. Trustee Sain seconded. Motion passed.

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#### **NEW BUSINESS**

8. **Next Agenda Items.** Director Kiely will meet with MCFLS Director Steve Hesel to review the member agreements expiring at the end of 2019. Outcomes and recommendations from this meeting will be presented to the Board. Discussion ensued about possible agenda items throughout the remainder of the year, including: preparations for the Democratic National Convention, examining education, job preparedness, and diversity in the librarian profession, and a visit from Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. Informational item.

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With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of May 28, 2019 was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

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