

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Central Library

814 W. Wisconsin Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53233

PRESENT: Michele Bria, Ald. Milele Coggs, Ald. Nik Kovac, Matt Kowalski, James Marten, Ald. Michael Murphy, Sup. Marcelia Nicholson, Jennifer Smith, Paula Kiely

EXCUSED: Joan Prince, Chris Layden, Dir. Larry Miller, Mark Sain

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

OTHERS

PRESENT: MPL Foundation: Ryan Daniels, Patricia Swanson
Poet Laureate: Dasha Kelly Hamilton
InSite Architects: Stephen Mar-Pohl
MSR Design: Traci Lesneski

President Michele Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:09 p.m. on January 28, 2020 with a quorum present. Trustee Coggs participated by phone. Quorum was lost at 5:15.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

1. **Poet Laureate.** Public Services Area Manager Rachel Arndt introduced Milwaukee's Poet Laureate, Dasha Kelly Hamilton. Ms. Kelly Hamilton is excited and honored to represent Milwaukee in this role. Her goal is to utilize the power and beauty of poetry as a tool to bring people together and build leadership in the youth community. Poetry workshops will be held in spring and fall of 2020, with a focus on the themes of Power, Freedom, Body, and Place. Poems shared by MPL patrons will be compiled by Woodland Pattern into a 'People's Anthology'. Ms. Kelly Hamilton read her poem, 'About Leaving'. President Bria thanked Ms. Kelly Hamilton and encouraged Trustees to participate in the poetry workshops.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes November 26, 2019.**
3. **Committee Reports.**
 - a. Building & Development Committee Meeting Minutes November 26, 2019

b. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes December 12, 2019

4. **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 4-26 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

REPORTS

5. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board.** Trustee Nik Kovac reported on the January 6, 2020 and January 27, 2020 meetings. The 5-year contract has been signed by all MCFLS member libraries. The contract includes a new technology and resource sharing plan, covering the period of 2020-2024. The new CountyCat mobile app went live in December 2019 and already has 15,000 users. A new strategic plan is in development and a new marketing and advocacy committee has been established to direct efforts for the system. The MPL-MCFLS lease agreement was extended for 2 years at the current rate. President Bria thanked Trustee Kovac for his service on the MCFLS Board. Informational item.
6. **State Annual Report.** Dr. Bria referred to the Statement Concerning Public Library System Effectiveness, which was distributed to the Trustees. The statement is part of the Public Library Annual Report presented to the Department of Public Instruction. MPL has been fully satisfied with the services provided by MCFLS. Library Director Paula Kiely noted some of the accomplishments over the last year, including: strategic planning, the 5-year agreement, a new marketing and advocacy strategy, staff training opportunities, the CountyCat app, partnering on special programming, and reliable delivery of materials. In 2020 Director Kiely would like to see continued technology support, involvement of the MCFLS Executive Director in the Public Library Services Redesign (PLSR) project, and increased diversity on the MCFLS Board. Trustee Nicholson moved to approve the form, which will be signed by President Bria and sent to DPI as part of MPL's Annual Report. Trustee Marten seconded. Motion passed.
7. **Services & Programs Committee Meeting.** Trustee Nicholson reported on the January 16, 2020 meeting. The Committee heard details about a security incident leading to the recommendation for a permanent ban. The Committee moved to issue a permanent ban to library patron Maggie Atlas. Trustee Smith seconded. Motion passed. Director Kiely reminded the Board of the appeal process for permanent bans.
8. **Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting.** The January 28, 2020 Finance & Personnel Committee meeting was canceled. Informational item.
9. **Building & Development Committee Meeting.** Trustee Kovac reported on the January 9, 2020 meeting. A progress report and final budget was presented for the Central Library

Business Commons space. The Martin Luther King Library development team has submitted their application to Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) and will include the letter approved by the MPL Board at the last meeting. Information about the application status should be available in April 2020.

Library Construction Project Manager Sam McGovern-Rowen presented an update on outstanding issues at the Good Hope Library. Trustee Kovac moved, per Article V, Section VI of the Library Board Bylaws, that the Board grant the Building & Development Committee the power to act on its behalf in reviewing and approving an amendment to the Good Hope Library development agreement, which will:

- Amend the project description to address the scope of the work to be completed – repairs related to the planters on the west side of the building, the installation of aluminum louvered siding on the north and west sides of the building, and the correction of the storm water management system including improvements to the library’s property on the northwest corner.
- Identify new substantial completion and certificate of completion deadlines.
- Require the developer to secure all necessary financing and provide such documentation and other language to ensure completion of the work.

Trustee Marten seconded. Motion passed.

The Committee moved several contracts for approval:

- Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room - The Committee received an update on the community room renovation project. The Committee moved to approve a request for MPL to negotiate a contract with Insite Consulting Architects for the community room renovation design. A formal, negotiated contract will be forthcoming. Trustee Nicholson seconded. Motion passed.
- Masonry and Tuck-pointing Contract – The Wisconsin Avenue staircase at Central Library is in need of repair for degeneration and water issues. The Committee moved to approve the repair contract to R.D. Woods Co., Inc. Trustee Nicholson seconded. Motion passed.
- Green Infrastructure Contract – Five branch library parking lots (Atkinson, Bay View, Center Street, Washington Park, Zablocki) will be updated to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. In addition to funding from the City’s ADA improvement budget, the library has raised nearly \$1M in grants to fund the project. The Committee moved to approve awarding the contract to Payne & Dolan, Inc. Trustee Nicholson seconded. Motion passed.

10. **Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room Design**. Library Public Services Area Manager Rachel Arndt explained the goal and timeline for the renovation project. Design concepts are underway and an internal workgroup has been created to identify needs for this space. In addition to identifying staff needs, public focus groups were held to survey patrons who use the space often. The workgroup made several offsite visits to locations with similar spaces to gather ideas and recommendations for room design and technology. A significant amount of pre-work was done before the RFQ was issued, which helped facilitate the process and allowed the consultants to begin design work at an accelerated pace. Ms. Arndt introduced Stephen Mar-Pohl from Insite Consulting Architects and Traci

Lesneski from MSR Design, who are working with MPL on the redevelopment design and implementation. MSR Design will lead the design of the project and Insite Consulting Architects will manage the construction. Mr. Mar-Pohl and Ms. Lesneski each gave a brief introduction of themselves, their company, and their experience working with municipal buildings and libraries. Ms. Lesneski reviewed the project goals, including the visual identity of the space, an inclusive and user-friendly space, flexible furnishings, and easy to use technology. She presented various designs, with an overview of pricing for each option. Board members provided feedback and preferences for the space, furnishings, and design elements. Director Kiely reviewed possible funding sources in addition to the \$50,000 grant from Rotary Club of Milwaukee. A strategy for fully funding the renovation will be presented to the Building & Development Committee at the March 5, 2020 meeting. Trustee Murphy moved to grant funding and final design authority to the Building & Development Committee. Trustee Kovac seconded. Motion passed.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of January 28, 2020 was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.
