

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

Video Conference Call by GoToMeeting

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

EXCUSED: Dir. Larry Miller, Jennifer Smith

STAFF: Kim Boldt, Lexi Buchberger, Eileen Force Cahill, Kristina Gomez, Ryan Hayes, Ryan Kulp, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Amelia Osterud, Judy Pinger, Anne Rasmussen, Rebecca Schweisberger, Heather Smith, Kelly Wochinske

OTHERS

PRESENT: Mayor's Office: Oscar Tovar
City Attorney's Office: March Schanning
MPL Foundation: Ryan Daniels
MPL Foundation Board: Mary Sprague
General Capital Group: Linda Gorens-Levey, David Weiss
Emem Group: Michael Emem

President Michele Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:07 p.m. on November 24, 2020 with a quorum present. All Trustees participated by video conference.

President Bria welcomed MPL Foundation Board President Mary Sprague and thanked her for attending the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Milwaukee Public Library Foundation Director Ryan Daniels provided an update on fundraising efforts to date and forecasting through year end. The Foundation has launched a COVID Relief Fund initiative which has been well received. Director Daniels shared a longtime donor increased their gift this year to \$30,000 to support COVID relief. Funding from the COVID Relief Fund will help support increased connectivity, including hot spots. President Sprague has generously offered to match all gifts through the end of the year, up to \$10,000. The Foundation continues to fundraise for Good Hope Library. President Bria thanked Director Daniels and President Sprague.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

1. **New Trustee.** President Bria introduced new Trustee Teresa Mercado, who was appointed by Common Council President Cavalier Johnson. Ms. Mercado is the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Hispanic Scholarship Foundation. Trustee Mercado thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve and looks forward to learning more about Milwaukee Public Library. Informational item.

ATTACHMENT A - P. 1 of 18

MPL CONSENT AGENDA

2. *Regular Board Meeting Minutes 11/24/2020*

P. 4

CONSENT AGENDA

2. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes October 27, 2020**
3. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting, October 27, 2020
4. **Administrative Reports**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director's Reports
 - c. Statistics

President Bria asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda presented as attachment A, pages 4-17 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

REPORTS

5. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting.** This item was held as the November MCFLS Board meeting will be held November 30, 2020.
6. **Services & Programs Committee Meeting.** As the November 9, 2020 meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum, the agenda items were shared at the regular Board meeting.

Program Updates:

Library Director Joan Johnson introduced Kelly Wochinske, Education and Outreach Services Coordinator, and Kristina Gomez, Events and Programming Librarian, to present an update on virtual programming. Ms. Wochinske shared information related to Youth Services programs and Ms. Gomez shared information related to Adult programming. Virtual programming began in April 2020 and is ongoing. Although the switch to virtual programming was challenging, MPL staff adapted and quickly learned to navigate new platforms. Virtual programs have been well attended with many new programs offered in languages other than English. MPL will continue to prioritize early literacy, diverse programming, community partnerships, technology training, and workforce development. A community survey has been created to gather information to help inform program planning. The Board thanked MPL staff for their willingness to pivot to a new type of programming and continuing to offer great resources to the community. Informational item.

2021 Temporary Reduced Public Service Hours and Curbside Service Model:

Director Johnson referred to a memo sent to Trustees requesting approval for both the 2021 Funded Public Service Hours and the alternate 2021 Temporary Reduced Public Service Hours. The memo is attached at the end of these minutes. Trustee Marten moved to give Director Johnson the authority to pivot to a curbside service model if the 7-day COVID-19 positivity rate in the City of Milwaukee exceeds 15% and the authority to ramp up to the 2021 funded hours using a 3-phased approach. Trustee Kovac seconded. Motion passed.

7. **Building & Development Committee Meeting.** Trustee Sain reported on the November 5, 2020 meeting. The Committee received a project status and inventory report, including the current roof replacement project at Central Library and information about funds received to expand the project to older parts of the roof. Green Infrastructure improvements at branch libraries will be held until 2021. Informational item.

NEW BUSINESS

8. **Martin Luther King Library Redevelopment Project.** Although noticed for closed session, the Board remained in open session, per recommendation by the City Attorney's Office, and project terms were presented for approval. President Bria introduced Library Construction Projects Manager Sam McGovern-Rowen, who gave an overview of the current funding plans. The development team is preparing an affordable housing tax credit package for Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) which is due December 11, 2020. David Weiss, of General Capital Group, gave a brief overview and answered questions about the project scope, plan, and timeline. Mary Schanning, Deputy City Attorney, reviewed the term sheet, noting this project includes an additional apartment building housed on the same block. That building involves properties currently owned by the City which will be transferred to the developer. Although it is included in the term sheet, the Board does not need to take action regarding those properties. Trustee Coggs moved to approve the term sheet and Trustee Sain seconded. Motion passed.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of November 24, 2020 was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.
