

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday May 19, 2009
Central Library Meeting Room 1
814 W. Wisconsin Ave.**

PRESENT: Sharon Cook, Art Harrington, Ald. Nik Kovac, Joan Prince, David Riemer, Gretchen Schuldt, Paula Kiely

EXCUSED: Ald. Milele Coggs, John Gurda, Ald. Ashanti Hamilton, Dir. Charlene Hardin, Marty Schreiber

STAFF PRESENT: Meg Diaz, Bruce Gay, Kelly Hughbanks, Joan Johnson, Dawn Lauber, Kathryn Mlsna, Sandy Rusch Walton, Taj Schoening, Crystal Sura, Paul Wilant, Judy Zemke

OTHERS PRESENT: Amy Hefter, Legislative Reference Bureau
Jake Miller, Budget and Policy Division
d'Andre Willis, Hammel, Green & Abrahamson
Russ Drewry, Hammel, Green & Abrahamson
Heather Cook Elliott, Hammel, Green & Abrahamson

President David Riemer called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 8:19 a.m. on May 19, 2009. A quorum was not attained; therefore action items will be presented for approval at the June 17, 2009 meeting.

Agenda items were taken out of order; however, these minutes are presented in numerical sequence.

PUBLIC COMMENT: A community member expressed his concern with the understaffing and workload of the librarians at the Forest Home library who are often multitasking to serve all the library patrons. He also stated that his preference would be to have libraries open at 7:00 a.m. since this would best serve 3rd shift workers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of April 22, 2009. Approval of the minutes was deferred due to the lack of quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of May 13, 2009. Approval of the minutes was deferred due to the lack of quorum.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **2010 Budget and Long Term Library Facilities**. Due to a lack of a quorum, this item was not discussed.

It was decided at the May 13, 2009 special meeting that Library Director Paula Kiely will provide three different specific library models, capturing the range of costs for all models, to be presented for action at the June 17, 2009 regular board meeting.

No action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. **Library Hours.** Director Paula Kiely referred to attachment B, page 29 of the agenda explaining that the 2009 Weekly Schedule of Hours for the library system was approved with each library being open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays throughout the year. This proposed revision keeps only six of the neighborhood libraries open from June through August. Ms. Kiely stated that reduced staffing, due to transfers, retirements, and positions being held vacant has created a burden on the existing staff. The vacant positions may or may not be filled depending on the 2010 budget outcome. The summer schedule reflects past practice through 2008. The Mayor has been consulted and understands the situation. Trustee Prince questioned why most libraries located north of Locust Avenue will be closed. Ms. Kiely responded that the three libraries which received extra funding for hours from the Common Council should remain open. President Riemer stated that library administration should implement the Summer Saturday Schedule for 2009 with the formal adoption by the Board to take place at the June 17, 2009 meeting. Ms. Kiely stated that proper signage and communication will take place.

Motion passed.

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3. **MPL Board Appointments.** President David Riemer and Trustee Art Harrington have been reappointed by Mayor Barrett to the MPL Board. Director Kiely shared that she was notified that County Executive Scott Walker has appointed Supervisor Mark Borkowski, 11th District, to the MPL Board as the Milwaukee County Board representative. He will join the MPL Board as soon as his appointment is confirmed.

Informational item.

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4. **MPL Board Committee Assignments.** President Riemer referred to attachment D, page 31 of the agenda. The MPL Board committee assignments have been updated to reflect the appointment of Gretchen Schuldt. The Strategy Committee is now called the Innovation and Strategy Committee and the ad hoc Bylaws Committee has been removed. The assignments will again be reviewed when the future County Supervisor and the MPS Board appointments are made.

Informational item.

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5. **Green Roof.** Director Kiely stated that the library has been awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) to add an educational component to the library's green roof project. Ms. Kiely thanked Library Business Operations Manager Taj Schoening for her leadership in securing the grant. Trustee Harrington suggested a letter of appreciation be sent to MMSD acknowledging the partnership and a tour of the library's roof be offered on completion of the project. Ms. Schoening introduced the team from Hammel, Green & Abrahamson (HGA) – d'Andre Willis (project leader), Russ Drewry (project architect), and Heather Cook Elliott (project designer). Mr. Drewry explained the replacement of the Central Library's roof with a sustainable green roof will not only repair the leaks but will reduce stormwater run off and heating and cooling costs. The 30,000 square foot roof on the annex receives solar exposure almost 100% of the year. This affords the installation of thirty kilowatts of photovoltaic cells that will convert solar

5. **Green Roof.** (continued)

energy into direct current electricity. A PowerPoint presentation provided examples of garden roof, assembly of the layer components of the roof, and various types of plants that will be used. With the MMSD grant, an observation deck will allow educational tours. Paths will be provided for maintenance. Trustee Harrington asked if consideration was given to renewable energy incentive programs offered by We Energies. Ms. Willis responded that a Focus on Energy grant offers a match to the capital investment funding and a buy-back program estimating annual energy cost savings. Trustee Harrington stated that he would like this project to be considered as part of the budget analysis to show the long term value the library is bringing into the City in terms of stabilizing energy costs. He asked where the size of the green roof ranks in the southeastern Wisconsin area. Ms. Willis will follow up. Trustee Harrington stated that the Governor's task force has set a renewable portfolio standard at 10% of the base load by 2015 which may be increased to 25% by 2025. That standard significantly increases the value of this project. Ms. Elliot noted that there is room for expanding the library's green roof. Trustee Harrington noted that the Department of Energy also has grant guidelines available. He added that there is tremendous tax advantage to a private entity if the library proposed a public-private partnership in the future if the project is expanded. Trustee Cook suggested an article in the Reader and several marketing pieces to promote public awareness of the project. She also stated that the Milwaukee Public Museum has an interest in green roofs and should be contacted as an act of collaboration. Ms. Kiely stated that approval of the contracts is scheduled for July with completion of the project expected in November. The printed slides are attached.

Informational item.

6. **The Language of Conservation: National Replication Project.** Ms. Kiely referred to the Language of Conservation memo dated May 11, 2009, attachment E, page 32 of the agenda. Ms. Kiely summarized the memo and presented examples of the project using PowerPoint. Ms. Kiely explained that MPL will again be partnering with Poets House, a 50,000 volume library of poetry in Manhattan, the Milwaukee County Zoo, and Poet-in-Residence Pattiann Rogers. Librarian Judi Gloyer and Ms. Kiely attended a conference in New Orleans recently for project training. This project will enhance the presence of poetry in Milwaukee and help develop an audience for poetry. Poetry will be added to the exhibits at the zoo with the expectations of changing the way people view conservation. With the guidance of Ms. Rogers, the library will be responsible for programming – six nationally known poets will visit and read at MPL. Two other related programs will also be planned. The library will receive \$4,500 to add materials to the poetry collection. The poetry is expected to be in place in April 2010. President Riemer and Trustee Schuldts suggested posting the live poetry readings on mpl.org. The printed slides are attached.

Informational item.

7. **CountyCat Features.** The Board agreed that this item should be held over to a later meeting.

Informational item.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

8. **Personnel Actions.** Personnel actions, attachment F, page 33 of the agenda, were presented and reviewed. Director Kiely noted that transfers and retirements are putting additional pressure on the staff that remain.

Informational item.

9. **Financial Report.** The Financial reports for April 2009 were reviewed. The investment activity listed below was noted for the record:

U. S. Bank Commercial Paper #266057331 (rated A1+/P1) dated 04/03/09 and maturing 05/04/09 at a rate of 0.26%.....\$340,000.

Informational item.

10. **Library Director's Reports.** The Library Director's Report, attachment H, page 36 of the agenda was presented. Director Kiely reminded the Board that the "Bookworm" painting is on exhibit at the Grohmann Museum and encouraged them to visit the museum.

Ms. Kiely remarked that the library had a strong presence at KidsFest. Thanks go to Youth Services Coordinator Kelly Hughbanks for leading the effort. Staff estimated that they spoke to almost 11,000 people over the two day event.

The Lost on the Lady Elgin program was highlighted, featuring Trustee Cook who shared her family history as it relates to the Lady Elgin shipwreck in Lake Michigan.

The staff continues to do a lot of marketing. Library card holders' email addresses have increased by almost 20% last month due to sign-up cards at circulation desks encouraging patrons to receive notifications via email.

Circulation and patron counts continue to increase.

The electronic statistics were reviewed. The paging slips increase of 18% has a direct relationship to the change in the media holds policy.

Informational item.

ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS: None.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of May 19, 2009 was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.
