

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
Thursday January 21, 2010
Central Library Meeting Room 1
814 W. Wisconsin Ave.**

PRESENT: Sharon Cook, Ald. Ashanti Hamilton, Art Harrington, Ald. Nik Kovac, Sup. Theo Lipscomb, David Riemer, Marty Schreiber, Gretchen Schuldt, Dir. Bruce Thompson, Paula Kiely

EXCUSED: Ald. Milele Coggs, John Gurda, Joan Prince

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Eric Pearson, Budget and Policy Division
Amy Hefter, Legislative Reference Bureau
Kevin Moloney, JP Morgan

President David Riemer called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 8:20 a.m. on January 21, 2010 with a quorum present. Trustee Schreiber left at 9:15 a.m., Trustee Hamilton left at 9:40 a.m. and Trustee Harrington left at 9:50 a.m. at which time a quorum was lost. All action items were approved with a quorum present.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT Director Kiely introduced Christine Arkenberg who was recently promoted to Library Public Services Area Manager.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Trustee Hamilton moved and Trustee Harrington seconded a motion to approve the December 15, 2009 meeting minutes, shown as attachment A of the agenda packet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **MPL Building & Development Committee.** President Riemer recused himself for the duration of the discussion regarding the contract for the design of the new Villard Avenue Library. Trustee Harrington temporarily chaired the meeting. In the absence of Committee Chair John Gurda, Trustee Lipscomb reported out from the Building & Development Committee meeting held on January 14, 2010. Trustee Lipscomb stated that four architectural firms were interviewed and the Committee voted unanimously to recommend award of the contract for the interior build-out design of the Villard Square Library to Engberg Anderson. Library Administration will negotiate the contract with oversight from the City Attorney's Office. After discussion, Trustee Cook moved and Trustee Lipscomb

1. **MPL Building & Development Committee.** (continued)

seconded a motion to approve award of the Villard Square Library design contract to Engberg Anderson, authorizing library administration to begin contract negotiations. Trustee Schuldts amended the motion to include immediate report back to the Board if the budget exceeds the amount agreed upon. Trustee Cook accepted the amendment. Trustee Thompson seconded. Motion passed with President Riemer abstaining. The agenda and minutes from the January 14, 2010 Building & Development Committee meeting are attached. Motion passed.

Trustee Lipscomb moved and Trustee Thompson seconded a motion to move into executive session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(e) for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a executive session. Roll called and unanimously passed at 8:45 a.m. Library staff Taj Schoening and Crystal Sura remained. After deliberations, the Committee reconvened in open session at 9:15 a.m. with no report out.

2. **MPL Innovation & Strategy Committee.** Chair Riemer reported out from the MPL Innovation & Strategy Committee meeting held on January 19, 2010. President Riemer distributed a draft motion (attached at the end of these minutes) outlining the library's current situation and trajectory of the MPL system with a proposed alternative approach for the library's future. He summarized the discussion of the Innovation & Strategy Committee, stating that the proposed alternatives to the current library system need to be decided on to avoid continually decreasing public service hours and reducing the materials budget. President Riemer asked the Board to approve the authorization for Director Kiely to proceed with a proposal in the 2011 budget that will consolidate two neighborhood libraries into one area library and one express library. He added that one of the neighborhood libraries, Villard Avenue, will be replaced by a library in a mixed-use facility. Director Kiely stated that any decision made will be predicated by available funding. An area library will take about two and one-half years to build. Discussion ensued about the vision of the library, aspirations to provide increased hours of service, meeting the needs of everyone throughout the City, building partnerships and remaining relevant. Trustee Cook stated that a decision to change moves the library forward in creating a system that will serve a larger neighborhood in a different fashion. The Board, along with the Director, will share the alternative approach to the MPL system, with the Common Council before taking formal action. Trustee Schuldts suggested that staff come back to the Board with a plan for the 2011 budget and a definition of the express library. President Riemer asked Director Kiely to schedule a Special Meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board, in February, for further discussion on the proposed motion. The agenda and minutes from the January 19, 2010 Innovation & Strategy Committee meeting are attached. Informational item.
-

3. **MPL Finance & Personnel Committee.** Chair Schreiber reported out from the MPL Finance & Personnel Committee on January 21, 2010. At the committee meeting, JP Morgan Investment Manager Kevin Moloney provided a quarterly report on the asset management of the MPL Trust Fund. Chair Schreiber stated that no investment strategy changes were recommended at this time. Chair Schreiber moved and Trustee Schuldts seconded a motion to accept the quarterly report on fund investments. Motion passed.

3. **MPL Finance & Personnel Committee.** (continued)
Library Business Operations Manager Taj Schoening reported that all reconciliations and statements have been found to be in good order.
Reports on the 2009 use of the funds for adult, young adult and children's programming, marketing, contingency and staff training were presented.
The agenda and minutes from the January 21, 2010 Finance & Personnel Committee meeting are attached.

NEW BUSINESS

4. **Operational Update.** Director Kiely stated that in 2010, the library made several major operational changes. Patrons are expressing their dissatisfaction regarding the cut in hours. The phone service has changed to a central system and staff, as well as patrons, are adjusting to the change. Informational item.

-
5. **Federal Appropriations.** Director Kiely explained that the library submits requests for federal funds annually with the guidance from the Mayor's Office. The library has requested funding for a teacher in the library initiative, a jobs and basic skills center at Central Library and funding for the Ready to Read with Books2Go program. The requests total approximately \$800,000 and communicate the needs and the work of the library to the library's federal representatives. Informational item.

-
6. **Strategic Plan Update.** Director Kiely stated that a new Strategic Plan will be produced in 2010. She suggested that one or two Board members be involved in creating the RFP for hiring a consultant. The Board agreed that members of the Innovation and Strategy Committee will help with the process. Informational item.

-
7. **Circulation Aide Scholarships.** Director Kiely reported that this item will be presented in March.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

8. **Personnel Actions.** Library administration reports the personnel activity for the month of December, attachment B, page 24 of the agenda. Director Kiely noted that the library is experiencing a high number of retirements and filling the vacant positions becomes critical in order for the library to maintain services. Informational item.

-
9. **Financial Report.** The December financial report will be presented in March when all 2009 activity is finalized.
U. S. Bancorp Commercial Paper #362076321 (rated A1/P1/F1+) dated 12/02/09 and maturing 01/04/10 at a rate of 0.12%.....\$295,000.

-
10. **Library Director's Reports.** The Library Director's Reports were listed as attachment C, page 25 of the agenda. Director Kiely stated that the month of December and the beginning of January have been devoted to library operations and she commended Deputy Director Joan Johnson and the Administrative Team for their work in implementing the procedural changes and supporting the staff throughout the transition. Informational item.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of January 21, 2010 was adjourned at 9:56 a.m.
