

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday March 24, 2015
Central Library Meeting Room 1
814 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53233**

PRESENT: JoAnne Anton, Michele Bria, Denise Callaway, Ald. Milele Coggs, Sharon Cook, John Gurda, Ald. Nik Kovac, Sup. Theo Lipscomb, Paula Kiely

EXCUSED: Ald. Ashanti Hamilton, Chris Layden, Joan Prince, Dir. Mark Sain

STAFF: Ryan Daniels, Panola Hall, Consuelo Hernandez, Joan Johnson, Dawn Lauber, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Mary Milinkovich, Judy Pinger, Tiffany Robinson, Taj Schoening, Brooke VandeBerg

OTHERS Amy Hefter, Legislative Reference Bureau

PRESENT: Jane Dederig, HGA Architects

President Gurda called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:47 p.m. on March 24, 2015 with a quorum present. Trustees Callaway and Coggs participated via conference phone.

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

1. **New Trustee Introduction.** President Gurda introduced Ms. JoAnne Anton, newly appointed to the Board by Mayor Barrett. Trustee Anton serves as a citizen member replacing former Trustee Sam McGovern-Rowen. Informational item.

RESOURCES / RECOMMENDATIONS / RESEARCH

2. **Brainfuse.** The Board was given a demonstration of the use of Brainfuse, online tutoring for learners of all ages.

CONSENT AGENDA

After asking the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda, President Gurda stated that there being no objection, the following items contained in the Consent Agenda were approved and adopted:

3. Regular Board Meeting Minutes January 27, 2015
4. Committee Reports.
Services & Programs Committee Meeting Minutes February 2, 2015
5. Administrative Reports.
 - a. Personnel Actions
 - b. Financial Report
 - c. Library Director's Reports

REPORTS

6. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board.** Resource Library Representative Trustee Kovac reported on the February 9, 2015 and March 16, 2015 MCFLS Board meetings. He said that the MCFLS Board discussed routine business. He commented that discussion from the Library Directors Advisory Council involved non-county resident library access. Director Kiely noted that MPL offers a membership card for \$100 that allows non-county residents to use MPL resources. Trustee Kovac added that most of the meeting was held in closed session and there were no action items. Informational item.
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7. **Building and Development Committee.** Chair Bria referred to the March 5, 2015 Building and Development Committee meeting agenda and minutes listed as attachment D, page 59 of the agenda. The Committee approved recommending to the full Board, a contract award for construction of the Tippecanoe Branch renovation to Creative Constructors LLC for a total of \$3,032,700. Trustee Bria moved to approve the contract and Trustee Lipscomb seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The Mill Road Branch Development item will be discussed under item 13 of the agenda listed as Branch Redevelopment Program under Strategic Discussion.

Trustee Bria said that five architectural firms presented design concepts for the Forest Home Branch at its new site on Mitchell Street. After the presentations, the Committee convened in closed session to deliberate. The Committee reconvened in open session and voted to recommend awarding the architectural contract for the design of the Forest Home Branch to Hammel Green & Abrahamson (HGA). She noted that HGA designed the new East Branch, and the Committee felt that the firm's presentation responded to the RFP by meeting the balance between the historic essence of the Mitchell Street Building and combining it with a modern contemporary style. Trustee Bria added that the library's entrance will be on Mitchell Street and may help revive and engage the business district in the area. Trustee Bria moved the committee's recommendation, to award the Forest Home contract to HGA, to the Board. Trustee Kovac seconded the motion. Motion passed.

8. **MPL Foundation Update.** MPL Foundation Executive Director Ryan Daniels reported that the Foundation Board held a strategic planning session in February and added that it was extremely well received. The Board is energized to raise money for the library and the session also ensured that the Foundation Board's goals are aligned with the Library's Strategic Plan, MPL 2020. He reported that the Foundation Board is firmly in support of the plan and the key elements such as early literacy. The Foundation will also support the awareness campaign.

At the March 18, 2015 Foundation Board meeting, the 2015 Foundation budget was approved which includes contributions of \$1.1 million to support the library. The Foundation Board approved a clean 2014 audit report and as of the end of March the Foundation will have submitted applications for grants in excess of \$600,000.

8. **MPL Foundation Update.** (continued)

On March 10, 2015 the Foundation partnered with Leslie Hindman auctioneers on a joint program featuring how to build a private collection and MPL librarians discussed preservation of materials. The Foundation is also hosting other clubs and showcasing the Rare Books Room and its unique collection of materials as a means of attracting supporters. The Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library Spring Literary Luncheon, featuring author Elizabeth Berg and her novel, "The Dream Lover" will be held at the Wisconsin Club on May 14, 2015.

Mr. Daniels said he was pleased to announce a gift from a Foundation Board member, Ms. Barbara Stein, who has committed to underwrite a new secret garden or children's garden at the Tippecanoe Branch, requesting that the garden be named in honor of Director Kiely. Informational item.

OLD BUSINESS

9. **Follow-up to Strategic Discussion.** President Gurda announced that this item will be discussed under item 13 of the agenda listed as Branch Redevelopment Program under Strategic Discussion.

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10. **Wisconsin Library System Changes Update.** Director Kiely referred to a briefing dated March 16, 2015 on the Wisconsin Library System Changes, attachment E, page 63 of the agenda. The recent development on the proposed changes to streamline the system is that the process will not move forward at this time due to the lack of government funding. Library administration is preparing a white paper that supports the Central Library as the State's Public Resource Library. Informational item.

NEW BUSINESS

11. **Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) Legislative Day.** Director Kiely referred to the Wisconsin Library Association - 2015 Legislative Day briefing dated March 13, 2015, attachment F, page 64 of the agenda. At Legislative Day, administrative staff takes advantage of the opportunity to meet with elected officials to discuss library issues. The Board reviewed the document's summary, background and recommendation. Trustee Cook recommended meeting with legislators from outside Milwaukee to enhance the library's position as a statewide resource. Informational item.

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12. **Department of Public Instruction and Statement Concerning Public Library System Effectiveness.** As required by Wisconsin Statutes, the public library annual report includes a statement on Public Library System Effectiveness, attachment G, page 67 of the agenda. President Gurda suggested the Board indicate that MCFLS did provide effective leadership to MPL. Trustee Kovac moved and Trustee Cook seconded a motion to complete the statement indicating that MCFLS did provide effective leadership and adequately meet the needs of the library. Motion passed.

STRATEGIC DISCUSSION

13. **Branch Redevelopment Program.** President Gurda introduced the topic of community feedback as it relates to the Branch Redevelopment Program. He reviewed some of the comments that were brought forward during the January 27, 2015 discussion on community engagement. One of the goals is to meaningfully communicate back to the community regarding their input on the library redevelopment projects. Two listening sessions were held in the Mill Road Library community with thirty unique parties attending. The Maures Development/Common Bond proposal would relocate the library to 7717 W. Good Hope Road. The comments indicate that community members are in favor of a new library but are concerned about the second use of the building as affordable housing units. Safety concerns were also expressed at the sessions. President Gurda shared that several Trustees attended the sessions and spoke passionately about the library as a neighborhood asset and public trust. Noting that Mill Road Library has a large service area, he asked the Trustees to consider how the Board can best balance its responsibility to honor community input and at same time balance the responsibility of what is in the best interest of the larger community. Trustee Coggs said that the legitimate quality of concerns from the community needs to be studied and evaluated. A market study of the northwest side indicates a less than 2% rental vacancy rate. Library administration found the cost of having a private firm do a traffic study of the area, in response to concerns regarding safety, to be very expensive. Trustee Kovac suggested contacting the Department of Public Works for assistance. The Board agreed that the library should respond to resident's concerns, engage more of the community on the library's plans and continue discussions with the district Alderman. The library has posted a Mill Road Library Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document, generated from the listening sessions, on the library development section at mpl.org. The Board expects to make a decision on the Maures Development/Common Bond proposal for a new Mill Road Library, at their May 26, 2015 regular meeting. Informational item.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of March 24, 2015 was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.
