

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Tuesday January 22, 2019  
Central Library  
Community Room 1  
814 West Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53233**

**PRESENT:** Michele Bria, Ald. Milele Coggs, Ald. Nik Kovac, Matt Kowalski, Chris Layden, Ald. Michael Murphy, Sup. Marcelia Nicholson, Joan Prince, Dir. Mark Sain, Jennifer Smith, Paula Kiely

**EXCUSED:** James Marten, Jennifer Smith

**STAFF:** Rachel Arndt, Eileen Force Cahill, Kristina Gomez, Joan Johnson, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Judy Pinger, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** MPL Foundation: Ryan Daniels  
City Attorney's Office: Gregg Hagopian  
Redevelopment Authority: Dave Misky  
Uihlein/Wilson – Ramlow/Stein Architects: Scott Ramlow  
Young Development Group: Lavelle Young  
Haywood Group: Kalan Haywood

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President Michele Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:48 p.m. on November 27, 2018 with a quorum present. Trustee Prince participated by conference phone.

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**TRUSTEE EDUCATION AND INFORMATION**

1. **Field Work MKE.** Community Relations and Engagement Director Eileen Force Cahill and Events and Programming Librarian Kristina Gomez shared information about Fieldwork MKE, Exploring the Ways We Know Our World – Poetry and Science Collaborations. Field Work MKE is presented by MPL and the Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM), in partnership with Poets House. The project is funded by The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and includes poet-in-residence Alison Hawthorne Deming. Field Work MKE attempts to create a model for cross-disciplinary collaboration between public libraries and natural history museums. Additionally, the project aims to help program participants forge deeper connections to the natural world. Public programs include Urban Wildlife: Poetry in Your Backyard, Poetry Walks, and The Botany of Beverages. A Poetry Path connecting MPL and MPM will be created in spring 2019. Ms. Force Cahill encouraged Trustees to share information about this project with their networks.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

2. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes November 27, 2018.**
3. **Committee Reports.**
  - a. Building and Development Committee Meeting Minutes November 20, 2018
  - b. Innovation and Strategy Committee Meeting Minutes December 12, 2018
  - c. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes December 19, 2018
  - d. Building and Development Committee Special Meeting Minutes December 20, 2018
4. **Administrative Reports.**
  - a. Personnel Actions
  - b. Financial Report
  - c. Library Director's Reports

President Bria asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda presented as attachment B, pages 3-25 of the agenda. President Bria entertained a motion to approve. Trustee Murphy moved and Trustee Coggs seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed.

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## NEW BUSINESS

5. **Statement on MCFLS Effectiveness.** Director Kiely referred to the Statement Concerning Public Library System Effectiveness, attachment B, page 40 of the agenda. 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. The Trustees agreed that MCFLS did provide effective leadership and adequately met the needs of the library. Trustee Nicholson moved and Trustee Kovac seconded a motion to approve the form, which will be signed by President Bria and sent to DPI as part of MPL's Annual Report. Motion passed.
6. **Sale of Forest Home branch building.** President Bria moved into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes sec. 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 closed session," for the purpose of deliberating over the purchase price of the former library property at 1432 W. Forest Home Avenue. Roll was called and unanimously passed; the call with Dr. Prince was terminated. Director Kiely, Assistant Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Assistant City Attorney Gregg Hagopian, Executive Director of the Redevelopment Authority Dave Misky, and Administrative Assistant Rebecca Schweisberger remained in the meeting. After discussion, the meeting was reconvened in open session.

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## REPORTS

7. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board.** Library Public Services Area Manager Rachel Arndt reported on the January 14, 2019 MCFLS Board meeting. The Library Directors Advisory Council Chair was changed from Pat Laughlin (Hales Corners) to Susan Draeger-Anderson (North Shore). There were no changes to the Board of Trustees Officers. Four of the MCFLS Trustees terms will end in 2020 and the Board has started planning to recruit new members. There were proposed and accepted revisions to line

items in the MCFLS budget with no changes to the total. The Trustees approved the 2019 Interlibrary Loan Services contract between MCFLS and MPL. Work continues on strategic planning; additional updates will be presented on February 28, 2019. Governor Tony Evers approved the MCFLS 2019 System Plan. An intern from the UW-Milwaukee School of Information Sciences will work with MCFLS Library Systems Administrator Jennifer Schmidt on website revision. MCFLS Director Steve Hesel thanked MPL Facilities for completing the installation of a kitchen area in the MCFLS office.

8. **Services and Programs Committee Special Meeting.** Trustee Nicholson reported on the January 10, 2019 meeting. The Committee recommended upholding the ban for Jerome Johnson. Trustee Nicholson moved to uphold the ban and Trustee Layden seconded. Motion passed.
  
9. **Building and Development Committee Meeting.** Trustee Sain reported on the January 3, 2019 meeting. Library Construction Manager Sam McGovern-Rowen presented a memo comparing the Garfield Theater building and the original Request for Proposal (RFP); the memo is attached at the end of these minutes. The Committee approved hiring an architect to serve as a consultant to the Board on the proposed site for the new Martin Luther King Branch Library. Scott Ramlow of Uihlein/Wilson–Ramlow/Stein Architects toured the Garfield Theater building with MPL staff on January 11, 2019 and will review the cost estimates. Mr. Ramlow addressed the Board to share his initial assessment of the property, which is consistent with Mr. McGovern-Rowen’s conclusions in the memo. Discussion ensued about possible structural changes to the building and visibility, signage, and traffic safety at the proposed location. Lavelle Young of Young Development Group addressed the Board regarding project financing. The development team will not pursue Tax Credits as part of the funding. On behalf of the Committee, Trustee Sain moved to continue exploration of the Garfield Theater building as an option and approval to hire an architect to serve as a consultant on this project. Trustee Nicholson seconded. Motion passed.

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With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of January 22, 2019 was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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