

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Tuesday June 25, 2019**

**Capitol Library**

**3969 N. 74 Street**

**Milwaukee, WI 53216**

**PRESENT:** Michele Bria, Matt Kowalski, Chris Layden, James Marten, Ald. Michael Murphy, Sup. Marcelia Nicholson, Jennifer Smith, Paula Kiely

**EXCUSED:** Joan Prince, Ald. Milele Cogg, Ald. Nik Kovac, Dir. Larry Miller, Mark Sain

**STAFF:** Eileen Force Cahill, Joan Johnson, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Judy Pinger, Anne Rasmussen, Chris Schabel, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** MPL Foundation: Pat Swanson  
MPL Foundation Board: Jim Kornfeld  
Redevelopment Authority for the City of Milwaukee: Dave Misky

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President Michele Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:26 p.m. on June 25, 2019 with a quorum present. Trustee Layden and Trustee Nicholson participated by phone.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Library Director Paula Kiely introduced Capitol Library Branch Manager Chris Schabel. Ms. Schabel gave a brief introduction of Capitol Library, including the building history, ongoing programs, and community partnerships. Informational item.

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**PROPERTY SALE**

1. **Forest Home Sale.** Dave Misky, Executive Director of the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee (RACM), gave a brief recap of the Forest Home building history and Request for Proposal. A new proposal has been received by Dr. Harcharan Gill, DVM and has the support of RACM and Alderman Perez. Under this proposal, the building will be repurposed as a veterinary clinic or rented to Voces de la Frontera. The offer to purchase is \$400,000. Trustee Murphy moved to accept the proposal; Trustee Smith seconded. Motion passed. The proposal will be put before the Common Council for approval.

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**SERVICE HIGHLIGHT**

2. **Summer Reading.** Education and Outreach Services Coordinator Kelly Wochinske presented an overview of the Summer Reading Programs. The Super Reader Squad and Teen Summer Challenge launched on May 20, 2019. All elementary school students in Milwaukee received a Super Reader folder at school, teachers and administrators received

information about the program, and library staff attended many school assemblies to promote the program. Summer Reading Outreach to the community and child care centers began the week of June 24, 2019. MPL staff also trained staff of other youth-serving organizations. These community contacts encourage reading and book-based programming to individuals outside of the library. Several Trustees expressed their appreciation for the Education and Outreach Services efforts and for the MPL Foundation support of these initiatives. Informational item.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

7. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes May 28, 2019.**
8. **Committee Reports.**
  - a. Innovation & Strategy Committee Meeting Minutes, June 13, 2019
9. **Administrative Reports.**
  - a. Financial Report
  - b. Library Director's Reports

President Bria asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda presented as attachment B, pages 4-21 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

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## REPORTS

3. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board.** Library Director Paula Kiely gave a summary of the June 17, 2019 meeting. County Supervisor Steven Shea was introduced as the newest MCFLS Board member. Steve Hesper, MCFLS Executive Director, sought approval of a contract for maintenance of the integrated library system. The cost of the service has increased and the Board requested Director Hesper continue negotiations with the vendor, Innovative. The Board discussed issuing a new RFP for the service; however, this could take at least 1-2 years to implement. The Board discussed the creation of a marketing plan; Library Directors will work with Director Hesper to design a plan that fits the needs of all members. The Board moved into closed session to discuss upcoming agreements that are expiring. There could be modifications to the Resource Library and Reciprocal Borrowing agreements, but no changes are confirmed at this time. Informational item.
4. **Building and Development Committee.** Library Construction Projects Manager Sam McGovern-Rowen provided an update on the Capitol Library RFP process. RFP responses were to be presented to the Committee and the public at the June 17, 2019 meeting. Due to insufficient responses to the RFP, the meeting was cancelled. Developers cited difficulty obtaining site control as a significant challenge to submitting a proposal. Library Administration met with three community members who were prepared to assist with the RFP scoring. The recommendation of these advisors was that the Library gain site control and then seek a development partner. Sites can be selected by invitation from a developer or issuing RFPs with specific parameters about the location. The Committee will

continue discussion at the July 11, 2019 meeting. Also at that meeting, Lavelle Young, CEO of Young Development Group, will present new site options for the Martin Luther King branch library redevelopment. Informational item.

5. **Executive Committee.** President Bria referred to page 22 of the agenda and reported on the June 19, 2019 meeting. The Committee discussed the progress toward Board goals and updating the Strategic Plan. The current Strategic Plan will be updated and extended from 2020 through 2022. Director Kiely will work with Library Administration to make recommendations and present them to the Board at the September 24, 2019 meeting. The Board will further discuss the updated plan at the October 22, 2019 meeting and finalize the Strategic Plan at the November 26, 2019 meeting. Informational item.

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#### **OLD BUSINESS**

8. **Board Assessment.** President Bria asked all Trustees to complete the online Board Assessment. The Innovation and Strategy Committee will review the final data and present it to the Board. Informational item.

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#### **NEW BUSINESS**

8. **Next Agenda Items.** The November Board meeting will be a joint meeting with the Foundation Board.

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With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of June 25, 2019 was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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