

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday March 22, 2011
Central Library Meeting Room 1
814 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53233**

PRESENT: Sharon Cook, John Gurda, Ald. Ashanti Hamilton, Ald. Nik Kovac, Sup. Theo Lipscomb, Joan Prince, Marty Schreiber, Gretchen Schuldt, Bruce Thompson, Paula Kiely

EXCUSED: Ald. Milele Coggs, Art Harrington, David Riemer

STAFF: Chris Arkenberg, Meg Diaz, Joan Johnson, Dawn Lauber, Kathryn Mlsna, Sandy Rusch Walton, Taj Schoening, Toni Vanderboom, Crystal Sura

OTHERS Amy Hefter, Legislative Reference Bureau

PRESENT: Eric Pearson, Budget Division

Vice-President Gretchen Schuldt called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:40 p.m. on March 22, 2011 with a quorum present. President Hamilton arrived at 5:07 p.m. and assumed the gavel at the discussion of item three on the agenda. Trustee Kovac arrived at 5:07 p.m. Trustee Gurda left at 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT None

Director Kiely introduced Lisa Berry Kessler, a student in the UWM School of Information Studies. Ms. Berry Kessler explained that she is a PHD candidate and as part of her course work is working on a case study on the decision making process for the Villard Square project. She will be surveying the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Trustee Gurda moved and Trustee Cook seconded a motion to approve the January 25, 2011 minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **MPL Finance and Personnel Committee.** Chair Theo Lipscomb reported that at the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held earlier, two items were discussed and moved to the full Board as recommended. The Committee recommends, for the Board's consideration, that Heartland Business Systems be awarded the vendor contract in the amount of \$57,138 for wireless upgrades at all Milwaukee Public Library locations. Trustee Lipscomb moved and Trustee Cook seconded a motion to award Heartland Business Systems the wireless system contract to for \$57,138. Motion passed.
The second item discussed was the process of interviewing various investment firms to manage the MPL Trust Fund. Chair Lipscomb stated, in the form of a motion, that the Committee recommends directing Ms. Kiely to revise the process to include a request for proposal with specific criteria to attract interested firms.

1. **MPL Finance and Personnel Committee.** (continued)

Trustee Schreiber noted that from his experience as past financial secretary, the request for proposal process for investment firms was a challenging one. Trustee Prince stated that MPL is a public entity and she supports the request for proposal process in selecting an investment firm. After Trustee Prince seconded the motion, Vice-President Schuldt called the question. Motion passed with Trustee Cook abstaining. The Finance & Personnel Committee agenda and minutes are attached.

OLD BUSINESS

2. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System Member Agreement.** Director Kiely referred to attachment B, page 19 of the agenda. A letter to the Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board, dated March 21, 2011 was distributed and is attached at the end of these minutes. Director Kiely stated that MPL has presented data and argued against the proposed MCFLS member agreement. Director Kiely reminded the Board that the only requirement from the State for a library to belong to a library system is that the library provide equal service and share materials. She added that there is no statute that requires payments amongst member libraries. The argument has been made by MCFLS Director Jim Gingery that because MPL cut public service hours, more patrons are using the suburban libraries and their materials. She noted that a system change in the holds process was also implemented in 2011 and had an impact on net lending statistics. The discussions have reached in impasse. Director Kiely stated that the State budget proposed that all library systems, including MCFLS, will see a cut of 10% (about \$297,000 less) for 2012 and flat funding for 2013. The proposed MCFLS member agreement calculates that the suburban libraries will have minor reduction in their reciprocal borrowing payments because the recommendation is that net lenders receive 44% of state aid instead of 40% which is in the current agreement (a 10% increase in their payments), which comes at the expense of MPL. MPL's Resource Agreement would be cut from 8% to 5% and the Cataloging Agreement would be cut by 1%. She noted that there will be a meeting with MCFLS Board President Paul Ziehler, MCFLS Director Jim Gingery, MPL President Alderman Ashanti Hamilton, and herself in April. Trustee Prince expressed frustration with the recurring difficulty of this process and advocated for the Board developing a model that works for Milwaukee and keeps MPL's doors open. Trustee Prince moved and Trustee Thompson seconded a motion to refer this item to the Innovation and Strategy Committee for consideration of a workable member agreement model and structure with a recommendation back to the full Board. Motion passed.

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3. **Project Update.** Director Kiely referred to the 2011 Projects list dated March 15, 2011, attachment C, page 35 of the agenda. A brief update on the Villard Square project was given. The closing on the purchase between the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee (RACM) and Gorman, the developer, is scheduled for early April. The City will initially lease the library site. Director Kiely then reported on out-of-state library site-visits with Area Manager Dawn Lauber and Villard Avenue Library Manager Kirsten Thompson. The Rondo Community Outreach Library in St. Paul and the GrandParent Family Apartments in the South Bronx are both developments that provided valuable information on managing a library with a partner. Trustee Gurda asked how the Projects list is different from the Strategic Plan. Director Kiely responded that the last Strategic

3. **Project Update.** (continued)

Plan ran from 2006 through 2009. In 2007, the MPL Facilities Plan was developed and has subsequently driven the library's initiatives. In 2010, the administrative team worked with a facilitator to prioritize current and future projects and the 2011 Project Plan was produced including both major projects and improvements to operations and services that MPL will concentrate on during the course of the year. She added that in addition to facilities, a discussion for a plan for services will take place in the near future. Informational item.

NEW BUSINESS

4. **Statement Concerning Public Library System Effectiveness.** Director Kiely explained that the Statement Concerning Public Library System Effectiveness is part of the annual report that the library is required to file with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning. The statement, attachment D, page 40 of the agenda, gives an evaluation of the Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS). Trustee Prince urged the Board to be honest and accurate with the explanation of its response. Trustee Schreiber concurred and said even though it is a difficult process; we are striving for a quality library system. After further discussion regarding the explanation of the library board's response, President Hamilton suggested that this item be held. Trustee Kovac moved and Trustee Cook seconded a motion that a clear and factual written explanation be crafted for further discussion and review at the next regular Board meeting scheduled for April 26, 2011. Motion passed.

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5. **2012 Budget Outlook.** Director Kiely referred to the 2012 Budget Timeline, attachment E, page 41 of the agenda. All city departments have been instructed to submit a cost-to-continue same services budget for 2012. The state budget will impact public libraries systems but how these changes will impact MPL is not yet known. Informational item.

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6. **Nominating Committee.** President Hamilton referred to the letter listed as attachment F, page 42, from Milwaukee Public School Superintendent Gregory Thornton. He noted that Ms. Denise Callaway will serve on the MPL Board as the Superintendent's designee, replacing Trustee Schuldt. Trustee Schuldt held the position of vice-president; therefore, the MPL Nominating Committee will hold a meeting to make a recommendation for vice-president to the Board, to be voted on at the regular meeting scheduled on April 26, 2011. Informational item.

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7. **Presentation of Gifts to Trustees.** President Hamilton presented a resolution of appreciation to Trustee Schuldt for her service to the library and the people of Milwaukee. The resolution is attached at the end of these minutes. Ms. Schuldt commented that it was an honor to serve on the Board. Trustee Thompson will remain on the Board through April 26, 2011. Informational item.
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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

8. **Personnel Actions.** Library administration reports the personnel activity for January and February 2011, highlighting the retirement of Branch Manager Nancy Torphy after twenty-five years. Informational item

9. **Financial Report.** The financial report for December 2010, January and February 2011 were presented.

Library administration reports the financial activity:

U. S. Bancorp Commercial Paper #362079361 (rated A1/P1/F1+) dated 12/03/10 and maturing 01/03/11 at a rate of 0.16%.....\$265,000.

U. S. Bancorp Commercial Paper #552009521 (rated A1/P1/F1+) dated 01/04/11 and maturing 02/03/11 at a rate of 0.16%.....\$575,000.

U. S. Bancorp Commercial Paper #552009871 (rated A1/P1/F1+) dated 02/03/11 and maturing 03/04/11 at a rate of 0.16%.....\$575,000.

10. **Library Director's Reports.** Director Kiely highlighted a research project, being done at the suggestion of Trustee Harrington, by students from the LaFollette School of Public Policy. The students are examining successful partnerships between academic and public libraries. She noted that Martin Luther King Library remained open on the holiday in celebration of Dr. King's birthday with several programs attracting a total of 444 patrons. The circulation, patron and electronic statistical reports were reviewed. Informational item.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of March 22, 2011 was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.
