

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday July 24, 2012
Central Library
814 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53233**

PRESENT: Denise Callaway, Ald. Milele Coggs, Ald. Ashanti Hamilton, Ald. Nik Kovac, Sup. Theo Lipscomb, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Joan Prince, David Riemer, Dir. Mark Sain, Paula Kiely

EXCUSED: Sharon Cook, John Gurda

STAFF: Chris Arkenberg, Meg Diaz, Bruce Gay, Consuelo Hernandez, Joan Johnson, Dawn Lauber, Bill Lenski, Kathryn Mlsna, Brooke VandeBerg, Crystal Sura

OTHERS Amy Hefter, Legislative Reference Bureau

PRESENT: Joe'Mar Hooper, Intergovernmental Relations Division
Mark Nicolini, Budget and Management
Eric Pearson, Budget and Management

President Ashanti Hamilton called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:40 p.m. on July 24, 2012 with a quorum present. Items were taken out of order; however, these minutes are presented in numerical sequence.

PUBLIC COMMENT None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Trustee Riemer moved and Trustee Kovac seconded a motion to approve the June 26, 2012 minutes. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Finance & Personnel Committee.** Financial Secretary Lipscomb reported on the suspension and discharge appeal hearing held on July 23, 2012. Committee members did reach a decision at the conclusion of the hearing; however, the Hearing Examiner will draft a statement on the committee's behalf which will be presented at a future meeting. A recommendation to the full Board will be made and voted on at the September 25, 2012 meeting. The July 23, 2012 Finance and Personnel Committee meeting agenda and minutes are attached at the end of these minutes. No action was taken.

 2. **Finance & Personnel Committee.** Financial Secretary Lipscomb stated that at the committee meeting held earlier, the Trust Fund's performance was reviewed and the internal accounting summary was provided. All matters were in order and there was nothing extraordinary to report. The July 24, 2012 Finance and Personnel Committee meeting agenda and minutes are attached at the end of these minutes. Motion passed.
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3. **Library Building & Development Committee.** In the absence of Chair Gurda, Trustee Coggs gave the report from the July 19, 2012 meeting. Contract approval was requested for the replacement of air handler unit 5 in the Central Library. Four companies submitted proposals. The Committee approved library administration's recommendation to award the contract to the low bidder Butters Fetting Company for a total of \$277,990. Trustee Coggs moved and Trustee Sain seconded a motion to award the Central Library air handler unit 5 replacement contract to Butters Fetting. Motion passed.
- The second item was an update on the East Library project. Trustee Coggs reported that HSI, the developer, sent their preliminary application to HUD for financing on July 16, 2012 and expects to hear a reply in mid-October. HSI is two to three months behind schedule due to negotiations and some environmental testing required by their financing companies. The library's internal project team will meet with the library's architect, HGA after the contract has been signed. The library is planning to have a public art component and will contact the Milwaukee Arts Board for support.
- The final item discussed was the painting of the Central Library rotunda. The third floor is especially in need of paint and capital funding is available for that. Testing has been done by Conrad Schmitt Studios to identify the original colors. A small area of the first floor is being restored for the purpose of attracting private funds for the project through the Library Foundation. The committee meeting agenda and minutes are attached at the end of these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

4. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS).** Director Kiely attended a meeting regarding the 2012-2013 Resource Library Agreement with MCFLS Executive Director Jim Gingery and Mr. John DeBacher from the Division of Libraries and Technology. MPL requested 8% of state-aid in compensation for serving as the resource library, MCFLS offered 7%. Because an agreement was not reached by the end of 2011, the prior agreement was automatically extended into 2012. Mr. DeBacher offered a compromise that was acceptable to Mr. Gingery and Director Kiely. He proposed the two quarterly payments paid at a rate equal to 8.6% of current state-aid, already made to Milwaukee stand and the third and fourth and 2013 quarter payments be reduced to 7%. The average first year payment will equal 7.8%. Payments in the second year will equal 7% of state-aid, making the two year average payment 7.4%. Director Kiely made a recommendation to the Board to accept this compromise and move forward with drafting the agreement. Trustee Riemer moved approval. Trustee Prince seconded. Motion passed.
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5. **Urban Library's Council (ULC) Report.** A ULC document titled Inspiring Libraries – Transforming Communities was distributed. Trustee Prince was recently named board chair of ULC. She explained that ULC's purpose is to strengthen public libraries as they exchange ideas. The ULC also provides information on federal programs and policies that affect public libraries. In addition, member libraries are encouraged to participate in the monthly webinar series and access the knowledge resource center. Currently, The Board has prioritized their efforts on the rapid growth of e-books, digital publishing, and access to all. She looks forward to participating on the council and will report back to the Board as necessary, asking for trustee insight. The ULC document is attached at the end of these minutes. Informational item.
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6. **2013 Budget.** City Budget Director Mark Nicolini distributed three documents to the Board: Overview of Fiscal Conditions 2013-2015 City Budgets; City Strategic Objectives; and, Budget Director Perspective on Vital MPL Policy Issues (attached at the end of these minutes). Mr. Nicolini said the 2011 and 2012 budgets were relatively stable, after taking significant reductions in 2009 and 2010, however there are serious structural problems reemerging. Constraints the city is facing include employer pension contributions of approximately \$59.3 million. Between 1996 and 2009 the City did not make any employer contribution. In the 2012 budget, \$25 million of tax levy funding was put into a reserve, leaving a \$34 million difference for 2013 and an ongoing difference close to \$44 million. This is in addition to net \$84 million inflation adjustment and decline in shared revenue since 2003, levy limits of about 0.5% per year, and a debt limit of 5%. Preliminary figures over three years may total a minimum \$65-75 million in budget improvement, most which will come from operational expenditure changes. For the 2013 budget, a \$26 million reduction from operations budgets will be requested (about 3.8% for the library). The Mayor has indicated that his goal is to achieve as many position reductions as possible through attrition. The Mayor would also like to maintain the current employee cost for health care premiums, deductibles and co-pays for the next two years. Trustee Riemer asked about the status of collective bargaining arrangement. Mr. Nicolini explained that no union contracts were signed except public safety. He added that there are some non-public safety unions that remain but the bargaining for those units is limited solely to wages, which are capped at the rate of inflation at 2.5%. Trustee Riemer clarified, for 2013, bargaining over wages, hours, and working conditions doesn't apply except for the incremental increase in wages with the exception for police and fire. Mr. Nicolini stated that the budget office thinks it is important to do something for the general employees who have had a three year wage freeze. Trustee Kovac asked whether the library should be looking at more than a reduction to public service hours, but a restructuring of the twelve neighborhood libraries, if the budget continues to decline. Mr. Nicolini responded that restructuring could involve the number of libraries that operate, or different service levels. A concern in reducing the number of libraries would be the geographic access. He added that the current model works well for the city. The budget will be presented to the Common Council in September. Informational item.

NEW BUSINESS

7. **City Comptroller to Speak.** This item held at the call of the chair. Trustee Coggs moved and Trustee Prince seconded. Motion passed.
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8. **Milwaukee Civic Partnership Initiative.** Director Kiely referred to attachment C, page 13 of the agenda and introduced Mr. JoeMar Hooper, legislative fiscal manager from the City's Intergovernmental Relations Division. He explained that a new city program may generate revenues for the City. The civic partnership involves offering City assets for paid marketing, advertising, sponsorships, naming rights and purchasing partnerships. After Mr. Hooper's summary of the program, Trustee Prince noted the Board has a policy for naming library facilities, attachment C, page 15 of the agenda. She also commented that this initiative may have implications for the relationship with MPL's Foundation. Trustee Riemer said it may be easier for the library to sponsor a service rather than a building. Mr.

8. **Milwaukee Civic Partnership Initiative.** (continued)

Hooper replied that sponsorship is a component of the initiative. President Hamilton suggested that this item be further discussed at an Innovation & Strategy Committee meeting or the Building and Development Committee. Trustee Callaway expressed concern in protecting the library's reputation. Director Kiely said that the Library Foundation has been successful in finding direct sponsorship for its programs. Trustee Coggs said she thinks it is great that the City is examining the possibilities. She added that a future possibility could be sponsorship for an express library model. The Milwaukee Civic Partnership Initiative proposal will go before the Common Council for approval at the September 5, 2012 meeting. Additional documents that were distributed at the meeting are attached at the end of these minutes. Informational item.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

9. **Personnel Actions.** The Personnel Actions report was reviewed. Informational item.

10. **Financial Report.** The financial report for June 2012 was presented.

Library administration reports the financial activity:

U. S. Bancorp Commercial Paper #266070674 (rated A1/P1) dated 06/04/12 and maturing 07/05/12 at a rate of 0.10%.....\$535,000.

11. **Library Director's Reports.** Director Kiely pointed out that twice a year, the library recognizes staff for their commitment and dedication through their years of service. She highlighted the successful day at King Library during the Juneteenth Day festival. The circulation, patron, electronic, and computer use reports were reviewed. Patron count increased by 15% year-to-date over last year. She thanked staff for their willingness to work extended hours as the library participated as a City cool spot on June 28 and July 5 when temperatures neared record breaking highs. Circulation increased by 9% year-to-date. eBooks circulation continues to increase, at 330% year-to-date. The second quarter computer use report indicates an increase in computer use hours. After the laptop computer circulation program has been in place for one year, 16,735 laptops were checked out. Informational item.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of July 24, 2012 was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.
