

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday April 28, 2015
East Library Meeting Room
2320 N. Cramer Street
Milwaukee, WI 53211**

PRESENT: JoAnne Anton, Michele Bria, Sharon Cook, John Gurda, Ald. Nik Kovac, Sup. Theo Lipscomb, Joan Prince, Paula Kiely

EXCUSED: Denise Callaway, Ald. Milele Coggs, Ald. Ashanti Hamilton, Chris Layden, Mark Sain

STAFF: Rachel Collins, Ryan Daniels, Consuelo Hernandez, Kelly Hughbanks, Joan Johnson, Dawn Lauber, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Mary Milinkovich, Judy Pinger, Taj Schoening, Crystal Sura

OTHERS Bruce Gay, MCFLS

PRESENT: Amy Hefter, Legislative Reference Bureau

President Gurda called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:40 p.m. on April 28, 2015 with a quorum present.

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

Director Kiely announced the promotion of Ms. Judy Pinger to the position of Assistant Director of Collections, Technical Services, and IT.

Ms. Rachel Collins was introduced as the East Branch Manager. Ms. Collins welcomed the Board and provided a brief history on the East Branch. The current building is the fifth rendition, in one hundred years, of a Milwaukee Public Library on the East side. During the grand opening on November 22 of last year, over 2000 people were served. East practices a proactive service model, addressing patron's needs throughout the library as opposed to behind a reference desk. She added that the new facility is technology rich and new library card registration has increased.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

1. **Fulbright Scholar.** President Gurda introduced Ms. Tatiana Baranova, who is in Milwaukee from Minsk, Belarus. Ms. Baranova explained that she is on a three month Fulbright scholarship studying project management in public libraries. Milwaukee was chosen for her research because of the University of Milwaukee School of Information Studies, who provided supervision, and the Milwaukee Public Library, who provided examples related to her research. Informational item.

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2. **Appearance by Poet Laureate.** Coordinator of Humanities, Arts & Special Collections Mary Milinkovich introduced Mr. Matt Cook, Milwaukee's newest poet laureate. He has been selected to serve as Milwaukee Poet Laureate for a two-year term. The poet laureate makes guest appearances during the term, promoting poetry throughout the community. Mr.

Cook read one of his poems. The Poet Laureate Program is supported through the generous contributions of the Friends of the Library. Informational item.

RESOURCES / RECOMMENDATIONS / RESEARCH

3. **Summer Reading/Summer Slide.** The Board was given a presentation on the library's Summer Reading program and how it reduces summer slide.

CONSENT AGENDA

After asking the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda, President Gurda entertained a motion to approve. Trustee Prince moved and Trustee Cook seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 24, 2015
5. Board Correspondence
6. Committee Reports.
Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes April 1, 2015
7. Administrative Reports.
 - a. Personnel Actions
 - b. Financial Report
 - c. Library Director's Reports

REPORTS

8. **Building and Development Committee.** Chair Bria referred to the April 2, 2015 Building and Development Committee meeting agenda and minutes listed as attachment B, page 21 of the agenda. The Committee approved recommending to the full Board, a contract award for the Central Library Annex Decking project to Wm. Sackerson Construction Co., Inc. for the base bid, plus Alternate 1 for a total of \$287,670. Trustee Bria moved to approve the contract and Trustee Cook seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Trustee Bria said that HGA architects are moving forward with the interior design of the Hills Building on Mitchell Street that will replace the current Forest Home Branch. The contract is being negotiated.

The committee was updated on the branch building initiative by Library Construction Project Manager Sam McGovern-Rowen. He said that the Forest Home developer, Gorman and Company, has hired Quorum Architects to do initial design work on the apartments. Discussions will continue regarding use of the basement, the alleyway and the rear building located on the site. Gorman will need to submit the Historic Preservation application in July 2015.

Mr. McGovern-Rowen explained to the Board the action steps that have been taken regarding the Mill Road Branch proposal and community outreach. As suggested by the Trustees, every resident that attended the listening sessions have been sent a follow-up correspondence noting the Library Development section at mpl.org that lists the Frequently Asked Questions. The Maures Development/Common Bond display at the current Mill Road branch has been updated, moved to a prominent location and staff have been initiating conversations with patrons about the project. Comment cards are also available near the display. Flyers were distributed to local businesses near the site. An MPL volunteer distributed fifty flyers to a dozen businesses. Public Service Area Manager Dawn Lauber also distributed fifty fliers in the neighborhood. The Department of Public Works has agreed to do a site traffic study. Both Aldermen Puente, Bohl and Davis have been contacted with updates on the process. Informational item.

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9. **MPL Foundation Update.** MPL Foundation Executive Director Ryan Daniels reported that on May 14 the Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library will hold their Spring Literary Luncheon, featuring author Elizabeth Berg and her novel, "The Dream Lover." The lunch will be at the Wisconsin Club, and they are also an event partner. The Friends Board agreed to partner with the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design to reimagine the Bookseller. The Foundation Board approved \$100,000.00 from last years' proceeds be provided to MPL for the Awareness Campaign. A group of thought leaders have agreed to provide strategic insight to ensure the funding is leveraged effectively. The Foundation is rolling out a Corporate Giving Program this spring. Mr. Daniels added that fifteen different Foundations were invited to an information session on library services on April 15 and 16. The feedback was very affirming. Informational item.

OLD BUSINESS

10. **Follow-up to Strategic Discussion.** The action taken as a result of the March discussion about the Branch Redevelopment was discussed as part of item 8.

NEW BUSINESS

11. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Strategic Planning.** Resource Library Representative Trustee Kovac reported that at the April 20, 2015 meeting there was discussion regarding the State Statute requirement for system libraries to provide same service in relation to electronic resources. Some MCFLS member libraries subscribe to electronic products which are not available to all County residents. MCFLS Director Bruce Gay will work with the Department of Public Instruction to arrive at an acceptable compliance plan. Director Kiely added that the Statute may need to be updated to address the change of delivery service in libraries. Director Kiely distributed a Trustee briefing on the topic of MCFLS strategic planning dated April 20, 2015, attached at the end of these minutes. Trustee Kovac referred to attachment C, page 25 of the agenda. He said that a survey of MCFLS Directors was completed as part of a strategic planning session held on April 8, 2015. The Board reviewed a summary of survey results that listed the director's ranking of MCFLS services in order of importance. Director Kiely and Trustee Kovac agreed that the session, which included member library directors and MCFLS Board members, was a positive and productive method to guide MCFLS's plan. Informational item.

STRATEGIC DISCUSSION

12. **Positioning Central Library as the Resource Library.** Director Kiely distributed a Trustee briefing on the topic of resource library dated April 20, 2015. President Gurda led a discussion on the Central library should lobby to become the resource library for the state. The Trustees considered the impact that this recognition would have on MPL. They asked that at the May 26, 2015 Board meeting, an overview of the important resources of the Central Library be presented to better inform this decision. The briefing document is attached at the end of these minutes. Information item.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of April 28, 2015 was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.