

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Tuesday, November 23, 2021**

**Video Conference Call via GoToMeeting**

**PRESENT:** Michele Bria, Chris Layden, Ald. Milele Coggs, Ald. Nik Kovac, Matthew Kowalski, Michael Morgan, Jennifer Smith, Ald. JoCasta Zamarripa, Joan Johnson

**EXCUSED:** Teresa Mercado, Sup. Marcelia Nicholson, Mark Sain, Erika Siemsen

**STAFF:** Maria Burke, Eileen Force Cahill, Tammy Mays, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Amelia Osterud, Karli Pederson, Anne Rasmussen, Marian Royal, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske, Dana Zurek

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** Budget and Policy Division: Mason Lavey  
MPL Friends Board: Jamshed Patel  
Office of Equity and Inclusion: Nikki Purvis  
P3 Development Group: Dominique Samari, Jessie Tobin

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President Michele Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:06 p.m. on November 23, 2021 with a quorum present. All Trustees participated by video conference. The agenda items were taken out of order; however, these minutes are presented in numerical sequence.

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**SPECIAL COMMUNICATION**

The Trustees participated in the annual holiday donation.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes October 26, 2021.**
2. **Committee Reports**
  - a. Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes – October 26, 2021
  - b. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2021
3. **Administrative Reports**
  - a. Financial Report
  - b. Library Director's Reports
  - c. Statistics

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**NEW BUSINESS**

4. **2022 Milwaukee Public Library Proposed Service Hours.** The Board reviewed the proposed library hours of operation for 2022, listed as attachment B of the agenda. Library Director Joan Johnson shared there was a slight reduction in hours as a result of a 3% decrease to the operating budget.

Under the new schedule, service hours will be uniform across all branches with branches open 48 hours per week and Central Library open 52 hours per week. Sunday hours will be reinstated at Central Library for the first time since the pandemic began. Trustee Morgan moved to approve the hours; Trustee Kowalski seconded. Motion passed.

5. **Contract Award – Library Books and Media Materials.** Director Johnson introduced Karli Pederson, Library Services Manager – Acquisitions & Serials, who presented a recommendation to award the library materials contract to Baker & Taylor. Ms. Pederson reviewed the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for this contract. If approved, Baker & Taylor will be the primary vendor for library materials for the next 3 years. The contract allows MPL to seek other vendors if necessary resources are not available through Baker & Taylor. MPL will have the option to renew the contract twice, for 2 years each time. Trustee Kowalski moved to approve the recommendation to award the library books and media materials contract to Baker & Taylor. Trustee Morgan seconded. Motion passed.
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## **REPORTS**

6. **Services & Programs Committee Meeting.** President Bria reported on the action items from the November 3, 2021 meeting.
    - The Committee moved to grant approval for Library Director Joan Johnson to move forward with the 2022 MPL Foundation request of \$1.84M. Trustee Morgan seconded. Motion passed.
  7. **Building & Development Committee Meeting.** Vice-Chair Nik Kovac reported on the action items from the November 4, 2021 meeting.
    - The Committee moved to approve a revised MCFLS lease agreement for space within Central Library. Per the revised agreement, MCFLS will lease the space at a cost of \$95,387 per year beginning January 1, 2022 through November 2023. Trustee Layden seconded. Motion passed.
    - The Committee moved to approve authorization Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns to begin negotiations with Milwaukee Health Department and Milwaukee Fire Department for the lease of the former Mill Road branch. Trustee Morgan seconded. Motion passed.
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## **OLD BUSINESS**

8. **Racial Equity & Inclusion (REI) Action Plan Status Update.** Library Director Johnson introduced Dominique Samari, of P3 Group. MPL issued a RFP to select a consultant to assist in development of the library's REI action plan. The contract was awarded to P3, a boutique professional service firm that designs strategic solutions for clients seeking to drive equitable and inclusive change. Ms. Samari introduced the project team, summarized the project goals, and presented the findings from MPL staff and Board surveys and focus groups. Survey findings will be presented to all MPL staff and developing a diverse REI action planning team. The next phase, beginning in January 2022, will focus on action planning using a results-based accountability approach. The final action plan will include the overarching REI strategy, initial implementation steps, performance measures, desired outcomes, and strategic partner recommendations. A copy of the presentation is attached at the end of these minutes.
9. **2022 Budget – Final Update.** Library Director Johnson shared a summary of the final 2022 budget. The library budget will be \$26.5M, which represents 3.6% of the City's total budget. MPL received

American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funding for COVID-related expenses and toward new construction project costs for the Martin Luther King branch redevelopment. Director Johnson thanked all Trustees, especially those on the Common Council, for their support of MPL's budget request. MPL will continue to work closely with the MPL Foundation on value-added components for capital projects. As the Express Library at Silver Spring (MPLX) has been retired, community support will continue through partnership between MPL and the Housing Authority. President Bria also thanked the Council members for their support during the budget process.

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With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of November 23, 2021 was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

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