

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Tuesday, June 25, 2024**

**Central Library  
Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room  
814 W. Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53233**

- PRESENT:** Mark Sain, Michele Bria, Teresa Mercado, Ald. Milele Coggs, Matthew Kowalski, Michael Morgan, Erika Siemsen, Ald. Larresa Taylor, Sup. Kathleen Vincent, Joan Johnson
- EXCUSED:** Felicia Saffold, Ald. Scott Spiker, Venice Williams
- STAFF:** Heather Berg, Chantel Clark, Melissa Howard, Yves LaPierre, Tammy Mays, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Joe Moretz, Karli Pederson, Lucca Ricco, Marian Royal, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske
- OTHERS:** MPL Foundation – Ryan Daniels  
Milwaukee County Federated Library System – Steve Hesel  
Keith Barnes – KCB Buildings

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President Mark Sain called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:09 p.m. on June 25, 2024. Trustees Coggs, Siemsen, and Vincent participated by phone.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Heather Berg, MPL Office Assistant IV, introduced Lucca Ricco, Earn and Learn Summer Youth Intern assigned to MPL Administration. Mr. Ricco has volunteered extensively with MPL in the past and will be working on various administrative projects as a Summer Youth Intern.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes May 28, 2024**
2. **Committee Reports**
  - a. Innovation & Strategy Committee Meeting Minutes – June 4, 2024
  - b. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – June 12, 2024
3. **Administrative Reports**
  - a. Financial Report
  - b. Library Director's Reports
  - c. Statistics

Chair Sain asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda presented as attachment A, pages 3-37 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

## REPORTS

4. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting.** MCFLS Executive Director Steve Hesar reported on the June 20, 2024 meeting. The MCFLS Board approved the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan. As part of the planning process, MCFLS conducted a stakeholder visioning session and public satisfaction survey. Director Hesar thanked MPL Director Johnson for providing valuable feedback which was incorporated into the final plan. The MCFLS Strategic Plan focuses on 6 areas: advocacy, data collection and utilization, organizational culture, patron experience, stewardship of system resources, and strengthening member libraries. All member libraries will receive a copy of the plan. The 2025 Milwaukee County budget request of \$66,650 was approved. MCFLS also submitted additional supplemental requests for support of Community Reintegration Center and the Milwaukee County Jail. MCFLS provides resources at these facilities and is also seeking County support for adult literacy services. The new CountyCat online catalog launched on June 20<sup>th</sup> and has been successful so far. The MPL Cataloging and Database Management department provided valuable support for the implementation. President Sain thanked MCFLS for integrating racial equity to their services and budget requests. Informational item.
5. **MPL Foundation Report.** MPL Foundation (MPLF) Executive Director Ryan Daniels presented an update on Foundation activities and fundraising. MPLF fundraising is up \$269,000 over this time last year; an increase of 34%. Currently, the primary driver of fundraising is donations for the Martin Luther King branch redevelopment. Director Daniels noted these are pledges, not necessarily cash in-hand and many donors utilize a payment schedule. MCFLS Director of Philanthropy Antoine Carter launched the 'Next Chapter' group. This group is geared toward young professionals and provides networking opportunities and various events. Director Daniels thanked the MPL Board for providing direction and vision for the major gift campaign. The Ben Franklin Awards Ceremony will be held on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. The award recipients are John Gurda and Cecelia Gore. Former MPLF staff member Hanna Fogle received a fellowship at the Library of Congress and has resigned from MPLF. Jen Krueger is the new Director of Operations. Ms. Krueger has extensive experience in fundraising and database management in both private and non-profit sectors. Informational item.
6. **Building & Development Committee Meeting.** Trustee Morgan presented the action items from the June 6, 2024 meeting.
  - Contract Award Request – 4T Renovation Architect and Funding Plan.
    - Library Construction Projects Manager Yves LaPierre reviewed the renovation plans for the 4T space in Central Library.
    - The space was originally designed for storage, but now houses several MPL departments and staff. It has not been renovated since the 1960s.
    - The renovations will modernize the workspace and improve work flow.
    - The recipient of the architect contract will manage: design development, construction documents, project bidding, and construction administration for the project.

Trustee Kowalski moved to approve the request to award the renovation architect contract to HGA Architects for \$141,500, with funding as described in the memo. Trustee Morgan seconded. Motion passed.

- Revised and Refined Major Gifts Project List.
  - As part of their 2024-2029 strategic plan, the MPL Foundation (MPLF) plans to fundraise toward a targeted amount.
  - The funds will be used to modernize library facilities and enhance infrastructure.

- Director Johnson presented and reviewed an updated list of projects which will be prioritized in the MPL Foundation major gifts campaign.
- Project costs may vary as market conditions change.

Trustee Morgan moved to authorize Director Johnson to transmit the list of priorities to the MPL Foundation, with a directive to begin fundraising for the projects with the current estimated costs, and reserving the right to adjust costs to market conditions. Trustee Bria seconded. Motion passed.

## NEW BUSINESS

7. **MCFLS Contracts Renegotiation.** MCFLS Executive Director Steve Hesel presented an overview of the Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) contract renegotiation timeline for three contracts that MCFLS has with member libraries. The timeline is attached at the end of these minutes. The contracts typically run 4-5 years, concurrent with the MCFLS strategic plan. The Resource Library, Cataloging Agreement, and Interlibrary Loan Service Resource Sharing and Technology contracts are up for renewal at the end of 2024.
  - Resource Library – This is an agreement that MCFLS has with MPL. Wisconsin library systems have a statutory requirement to enter into a resource library agreement, usually with the largest library in the system. In the role of resource library, MPL provides training, consultation, resources, and back-up reference help for other members.
  - Cataloging Agreement – This contract details the centralized cataloging work and payment parameters for the system. MPL oversees the MCFLS database to ensure it is updated and usable.
  - Interlibrary Loan Service Resource Sharing and Technology (IRST) Agreement – This contract is signed by all member libraries. This agreement outlines the parameters, stipulations, and responsibilities for member libraries and MCFLS related to payments for the interlibrary loan software, resource sharing, reciprocal borrowing amounts, circulation, technology, and deliveries.

Mr. Hesel will meet with member library Directors to review and discuss the agreements and the target date for completion is October 10, 2024. Informational item.

## OLD BUSINESS

8. **Bookseller Renovation Presentation.** Keith Barnes, architect and founder of KCB Buildings, presented renderings of proposed renovations to the Bookseller space. The renderings are attached at the end of these minutes. The Bookseller will be moved to a former archival room on Tier 4. This is a larger space with separate entry which would allow the Bookseller to set its own business hours. The renovated room would incorporate a café, retail space, and kids' area. When Central Library was originally constructed, there were street-level windows on 8th Street which were filled in during renovation in the 1970s. The renderings include re-incorporating the windows to bring natural light and connection into the space. All of the original plaster and details will be patched and repaired. Light fixtures will be replaced with period-appropriate pieces and bookshelves will be constructed to allow clear sightlines. MPL has identified this project as a key priority for renovations at Central Library. Library Director Joan Johnson thanked Mr. Barnes and his partner, Carol Alexander, for donating their expertise and time on this project and Ms. Alexander's service on the MPL Friends Board. Informational item.

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With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of June 25, 2024 was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.