

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

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

ANNUAL MEETING

- PRESENT:** Michele Bria, Teresa Mercado, Michael Morgan, Neil Albrecht, Ald. Milele Coggs, Matthew Kowalski, Ald. Andrea Pratt, Felicia Saffold, Ald. Larresa Taylor, Sup. Kathleen Vincent, Missy Zombor, Joan Johnson
- EXCUSED:** Venice Williams
- STAFF:** Sarah Finn, Tim Fluhr, Ha Hoang, Melissa Howard, Dan Keeley, Yves LaPierre, Mary Lopez, Kimberly Luedke, Tammy Mays Wilder, Amanda McGillivray, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Karli Pederson, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske, Jessica Wolf
- OTHER:** Budget & Management Division: Nathaniel Haack
Milwaukee Public Library Foundation: Sam McGovern-Rowen

President Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:04 p.m. on May 26, 2026 with a quorum present. Trustees Coggs, Pratt, and Vincent attended virtually.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

1. **Introduction of New Trustee.** President Bria welcomed new Trustee Missy Zombor, MPS Board President. Trustee Zombor gave a brief overview of her professional background and shared she is excited to be part of the MPL Board. Informational item.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes April 28, 2026**
3. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Finance & Personnel Committee – April 28, 2026
 - b. Building & Development Committee – May 7, 2026
4. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting, May 5, 2026.**
5. **Administrative Reports**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director’s Reports
 - c. Statistics

Chair Bria asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda, presented as attachment A, pages 3-44 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

REPORTS

6. **Library Services & Programs Committee.** Trustee Saffold presented action items from the May 6, 2026 meeting.

Expansion of Sunday Service. Library Director Joan Johnson presented a request to modify the expansion of Sunday service at Martin Luther King and Mitchell Street branch libraries. As part of the hours of operation approved by the Board in January, Sunday service was slated to begin at Martin Luther King and Mitchell Street in July. Based on several factors, including implementation of new scheduling software and staffing models, staff feedback, and increased operational demands during the summer, Director Johnson requested authorization to use a phased approach to open Martin Luther King and Mitchell Street branches for Sunday service. The Committee voted to authorize the phased schedule, with Martin Luther King open for Sunday service beginning July 12th and Mitchell Street open for Sunday service beginning September 13th.

To the full Board, Trustee Saffold moved to approve using the phased approach, as described, to add Sunday hours at the two additional branches. Trustee Pratt seconded. Motion passed.

Patron Ban Appeal Hearings. Under the Wisconsin State Statutes 43.52(2) and Article V Section 1 of the MPL Board of Trustees Bylaws, the Committee gave appeal hearings in the matters of the library banning of Ivan Kruslin and Donell Parker, respectively.

Kruslin appeal: Library Security Manager Carlos Lopez and patron Ivan Kruslin testified to the events that led to the ban. All parties and the Committee were able to ask clarifying questions.

Parker appeal: Mr. Parker was not in attendance. Library Security Manager Carlos Lopez presented the allegations leading to the ban.

The Committee moved into closed session to deliberate the appeals. The Committee voted unanimously to uphold the 1-year bans for Ivan Kruslin and Donell Parker.

Trustee Saffold moved to uphold the ban of Ivan Kruslin, ending February 4, 2027 and Donell Parker, ending December 13, 2026. Trustee Pratt seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

7. **Officer Election.** Trustee Kowalski reviewed the slate presented by the Nominating Committee: Michele Bria for President, Teresa Mercado for Vice-President, and Michael Morgan for Financial Secretary; the Past President seat is vacant. No other nominations were presented. Trustee Kowalski moved to approve the slate and Trustee Albrecht seconded. Motion passed.
8. **Summer Reading Program.** Library Public Services Area Manager Kelly Wochinske presented an update on Summer With MPL: The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge. The program encourages patrons of all ages to read, explore, and continue learning throughout the summer. Participants can log their reading time in the new gameboard tracker, complete activities to gain points, attend library programs, and participate in the bookmark contest. The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge will focus on boosting confidence and curiosity, which are key factors to learning. Children and teens will receive a free book at sign up. Deliveries of books and DIY kits have begun for summer reading partners and child care centers. The summer reading kickoff celebration will be held at Central

Library on May 30th. Ms. Wochinske thanked library staff for supporting the program and the MPL Foundation for their ongoing financial support of the summer reading program. Informational item.

9. **Closing Remarks.** Library Director Joan Johnson shared information about upcoming Civic Bites sessions. Civic Bites is a monthly series, through the One MKE project, that focuses on civic literacy and information about city services. The series highlights City workers and the next session will feature Kayla Schultz, City Parks Coordinator. Informational item.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of May 26, 2026 was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.
