

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Video Conference Call via GoToMeeting

PRESENT: Mark Sain, Teresa Mercado, Michele Bria, Ald. Milele Coggs, Matthew Kowalski, Michael Morgan, Felicia Saffold, Scott Spiker, Kathleen Vincent, Joan Johnson

EXCUSED: Chris Layden, Erika Siemsen

STAFF: Neil Albrecht, Chantel Clark, Tammy Mays, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Karli Pederson, Marian Royal, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske

OTHERS

PRESENT: Budget and Policy Office: Angelique Pettigrew
City Attorney's Office: Alex Carson
MPL Foundation: Ryan Daniels, Sam McGovern-Rowen

President Mark Sain called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:04 p.m. on January 24, 2023 with a quorum present. Trustee Coggs participated by conference phone.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Library Director Joan Johnson introduced Chantel Clark and Neil Albrecht. Chantel Clark is the new Associate Director of Strategic Initiatives and Public Services. Neil Albrecht is the interim Community Engagement and Relations Director. Ms. Clark and Mr. Albrecht introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their personal and professional backgrounds.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Regular Board Meeting Minutes January 24, 2023
2. Committee Reports
 - a. Services & Programs Committee Meeting Minutes – March 1, 2023
3. Administrative Reports
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director's Reports
 - c. Statistics

President Sain asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda presented as attachment A, pages 4-17 of the agenda. Trustee Morgan moved to accept the consent agenda; Trustee Mercado seconded. Motion passed.

REPORTS

4. Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting. This item was held for the April 25, 2023 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

5. **State Annual Report – Review Data and Ratify President’s Approval.** MPL prepared and submitted the annual report to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), listed as Attachment B of the agenda. President Sain viewed and approved the report and entertained a motion for the Board to ratify his approval. Trustee Kowalski moved to approve; Trustee Bria seconded. Motion passed.
 6. **Martin Luther King Redevelopment Project.** President Sain stated his intention to convene in closed session, pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes sec. 19.85(1)(e), for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session,” for the purpose of discussion related to the mixed-use development that will house a new Milwaukee Public Library at 2901 North Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. Trustee Bria moved and Trustee Morgan seconded the motion at 4:14 p.m. to convene in closed session. Library Director Joan Johnson, Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Rebecca Schweisberger, and Assistant City Attorney Alex Carson remained during closed session. The Board reconvened in open session at 4:55 p.m. on a motion by Trustee Morgan and seconded by Trustee Vincent. While in closed session, the Board unanimously approved the following items:
 - The purchase, sale, and development agreement for the Martin Luther King branch between the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee Public Library, and GenCap Emem MLK, LLC.
 - The lease agreement between GenCap Emem MLK, LLC and Milwaukee Public Library.
 - The loan documents, including a note mortgage, loan agreement, and subordination agreement.
 - The condominium declaration and association agreement.
 - The lease agreement between King Drive Commons II, LLC and Milwaukee Public Library for the temporary MLK library location.
 - Amendment to these items: If the contract closes on April 7, 2023, Milwaukee Public Library shall have 45 days to vacate the current MLK branch premises. If the contract closes on April 28, 2023 Milwaukee Public Library shall have 21 days to vacate the current MLK library premises.President Sain thanked all involved in bringing this project to fruition.
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NEW BUSINESS

7. **Contract Award – Community Engagement Consultant.** Library Director Joan Johnson presented a brief overview of the community conversations project, which is gathering data to help inform service planning for 2024 and beyond. The Community Engagement Consultant will integrate their engagement plan with MPL’s ongoing project, apply strategies to increase community feedback participation levels, process and analyze raw data, and prepare final reports in various forms. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued and 3 qualified proposals were received. The Library Director, Deputy Library Director, Associate Director of Public Services, Community Relations and Engagement Director, and Communications and Marketing Administrative Specialist, Sr. met to review the proposals. The committee came to a unanimous agreement to recommend awarding the Community Engagement Consultant contract to INPOWER Solutions for \$65,700. Trustee Morgan moved to approve the contract award to INPOWER Solutions for the specified amount as recommended by Library staff. Trustee Saffold seconded. Motion passed.
8. **Contract Award – Café Services Vendor.** Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns presented a contract award recommendation for the café vendor contract at Central Library. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued in fall 2022 and 2 qualified proposals were received. A committee consisting of the Deputy Library Director, Public Services Area Manager (Central), and representatives from the MPL Foundation and Friends reviewed the proposals and held taste-testing with the vendors. The committee came to a unanimous agreement to recommend awarding the

Café Vendor contract to Rise & Grind Café. MPL is working with the City and vendor to prepare the space. Trustee Kowalski moved to grant MPL authority to enter into contract with Rise & Grind Café. Trustee Mercado seconded. Motion passed.

9. **Legislative Updates.** Library Director Joan Johnson shared a briefing on the State biennial budget for 2023-2025 and its potential impact to Milwaukee Public Library. The Governor's proposed budget includes a \$14M increase for state aid to library systems, to be dispersed over 2 years. The Wisconsin Library Association lobbyist anticipates bipartisan support for an increase closer to \$6M over 2 years, which would raise the base amount of state aid to library systems to \$46M. In February, MPL staff and President Sain participated in Library Legislative Day, meeting with the Milwaukee delegation of legislators to communicate importance of library funding and gain their support. If the funding is approved, Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) would receive an increased allocation which would result in a higher payment to MPL as part of the resource library contract. The resource library contract stipulates MPL receives 6.5% of the MCFLS allocation. Regarding the City budget, department heads will be directed to submit a cost to continue budget in April. Mayor Johnson and his team are in conversation with State legislative leaders and Budget Director Kovac will present an update at the May 23, 2023 Board meeting. Director Johnson introduced Angelique Pettigrew, Budget & Fiscal Policy Analyst with the City Budget Office. Informational item.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

10. **Urban Libraries Council (ULC) Executive Board.** Trustee Bria presented an update on the work of the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) Board. ULC is a network of over 160 libraries in North America led by Executive Director Brooks Rainwater. It provides an authentic community to share best practices with a focus on outcomes-driven research and innovation. In December, ULC launched a strategic planning process and is pursuing national grants that will have benefits at local levels including: libraries as hubs for entrepreneurship, addressing food insecurity, public housing and public library partnerships. ULC goals for 2023 include: continued development of the strategic plan, expanding key partnerships, developing local, national, and international relationships to promote libraries, strengthening outcomes, and deepening connections. ULC is also exploring creative ways to increase funding for public libraries. The next meeting will be held in April and a report will follow at the April 25, 2023 MPL Board meeting. Trustee Bria is thankful to work with such a dynamic group of library leaders. Informational item.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of March 28, 2023 was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.
