

REPORT OF THE BOARD'S DELEGATE TO THE MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 19, 2018

Submitted by President Mark Sain

Report on the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library's Board of Trustees Tuesday March 27, 2018 Central Library Community Room 1 814 West Wisconsin Avenue Milwaukee, Wisconsin

President John Gurda called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library's Board of Trustees to order at 4:33 p.m. on March 27, 2018, with a quorum present.

- PresentJoAnne Anton, Michele Bria, Ald. Milele Coggs¹, Sharon Cook, John Gurda,
Joan Prince, Mark Sain, Jennifer Smith, Paula Kiely
- ExcusedAld. Cavalier Johnson, Ald. Nik Kovac, Chris Layden, Supt. Marcelia
Nicholson
- Staff.....Eileen Force Cahill, Ryan Daniels, Joan Johnson, Dawn Lauber, Sam
McGovern-Rowen, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Judy Pinger, Rebecca
Schweisberger, Crystal Sura, Kelly Wochinske
- OthersSteve Heser, Milwaukee County Federated Library System, Frank
Martinelli, Center for Public Skills Training

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alderwoman Chantia Lewis stated that she has attended the Good Hope Project's community meetings at the Mill Road branch. Members of the community in her district, which includes the library, have presented her with a name of Dr. Irene Groggans for the new library. Dr. Groggans was a celebrated historian in the Milwaukee African-American community. Alderwoman Lewis thanked the Board for its consideration.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

Milwaukee County Federated Library System's (MCFLS's) New Executive Director

President Gurda introduced Mr. Steve Heser, who has been newly appointed as MCFLS's Executive Director. As the library system's administrator, he had developed a good working relationship with MPL. Most recently he was involved with a study of library fines in partnership with MPL and UW-Milwaukee. Mr. Heser said he intends to meet with other member libraries and their boards throughout 2018 to assess current needs and to understand how MCFLS can bring value to its membership. MCFLS will go through a strategic-planning process later this year. Member contracts expire in December 2019, and the strategic-planning process will help inform priorities. MCFLS has also been participating in the Public Library System's redesign project.

¹ Trustee Coggs participated by conference phone.

REPORTS

Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board

In the absence of Trustee Kovac, MCFLS Executive Director Steve Heser gave a brief report from the MCFLS Board's meetings of February 12, 2018, and March 19, 2018. The first step of the fines study project was to identify patrons whose library cards have been blocked. A letter was sent to over 800 patrons who visited MPL during the Fine Forgiveness Campaign in September of 2016, but whose cards have been blocked since then. The next step will consist of a research project by UWM, which will include a confidential phone survey to find out why these patrons are not returning library materials. Lastly, a focus-group facilitator will use the information gathered to guide MPL in decisions about possible policy changes.

Building and Development Committee

Trustee Bria summarized the Committee's meeting of March 12, 2018.

(1) As part of the library's e-rate application, the Committee approved the award of the two-year contract for provision of internet service to Spectrum at a cost of \$35,400 annually. The Committee also awarded the three-year contract for wide-area network services to AT&T at a cost of \$104,400 annually. E-rate pays 90% of these contracted amounts, while MPL pays 10%.

(2) After explaining the RFP process for the contract for copy and print services, Trustee Bria moved approval of the Committee's recommendation to award a contract for copy and print services to Gordon Flesch Company for a three-year term. Trustee Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

(3) The Committee had viewed a presentation regarding the updated design of the Good Hope Project's library space by Zimmerman Architects. Construction Project Manager, Sam McGovern-Rowen, presented the design to the Board. Trustee Bria moved to approve the design and to direct library staff to complete the design with the Zimmerman Architects' team. Trustee Sain seconded the motion. Motion passed.

(4) The Committee had also viewed a presentation about the City's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Plan. The Committee had approved moving forward with the projects that will involve Central, Atkinson, Bay View, and Center Street. Since then, the Environmental Collaboration Office and MPL staff have learned that an RFP process will be required. Trustee Bria moved to adopt the recommendation to participate in the Better Buildings Challenge and to issue an RFP for energy-reduction performance financing and contracting. Trustee Cook seconded the motion. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Department of Public Instruction's (DPI's) 2017 Annual Report and Statement Concerning Public Library System's Effectiveness

Assistant Library Director of Operations, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, distributed a document titled "Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction 2017 Public Library Annual Report Highlights — Five-Year Trends." Ms. Meyer-Stearns summarized the trends which MPL has experienced. Trustee Prince moved, and Trustee Bria seconded, approval of the DPI's 2017 Annual Report. Motion passed. President Gurda will sign the Statement Concerning Public Library System Effectiveness, indicating that MCFLS did provide effective leadership and has adequately met the needs of the library.

STRATEGIC DISCUSSION

MPL Board Retreat

Consultant Frank Martinelli distributed several documents relating to the MPL Board's retreat on February 28, 2018:

- "Trustee and Foundation Board Member Survey Feedback";
- "New Questions and Emerging Challenges";
- "Resilient Strategies"; and
- "Identifying and Pursuing Key Generative Thinking Opportunities for MPL."

Mr. Martinelli presented a preliminary report that included the expected outcomes from the retreat, the survey's highlights, and recommendations for next steps. The Trustees and library staff will proceed by prioritizing the new questions and emerging challenges that require generative work.

Discussion ensued regarding the Board's development and strategies that will help the trustees play leadership roles in reducing racial and social inequities in significant and measurable ways. It was suggested that a combined MPL Board and MPL Foundation Board meet to further the discussion. Mr. Martinelli will prepare and distribute a final report.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees' meeting of March 27, 2018, was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

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