

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

March 21, 2024

Submitted by Director Siemsen

JANUARY 23, 2024 REGULAR MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

PRESENT: Matthew Kowalski, Michael Morgan, Erika Siemsen, Scott Spiker, Larresa Taylor, Kathleen Vincent, Venice Williams, Joan Johnson

EXCUSED: Michele Bria, Ald. Milele Coggs, Teresa Mercado, Mark Sain, Felicia Saffold

STAFF: Chantel Clark, Melissa Howard, Dan Keeley, Tammy Mays, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Rebecca Schweisberger

OTHERS PRESENT:

Budget & Policy Division: Nathaniel Haack

MPL Foundation: Ryan Daniels

PFM Asset Management LLC: Wayne Sattler

Presiding Chair Michael Morgan called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:20 p.m. on January 23, 2024; a quorum was reached at 4:35. Trustees Siemsen, Spiker, and Vincent participated by conference phone. Agenda items were taken out of order but are presented here in numerical sequence.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

1. Good Hope Branch Introduction
 - a. Library Services Manager Amelia Osterud presented a brief introduction of Good Hope branch, including building history, ongoing programs, frequently used resources, and unique features. Informational item.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

2. Introduction of New Trustee. Chair Morgan introduced new Trustees Venice Williams and Ald. Larresa Taylor. The Trustees each shared a brief overview of their professional and personal backgrounds. Informational item.

QUARTERLY REVIEW OF FUND INVESTMENTS

Mr. Wayne Sattler, Senior Vice President & Managing Director at PFM Asset Management, reviewed the Account Investment Materials and provided a market overview. The investment performance of the trust fund for the period ending January 23, 2024 was reviewed. There were no recommended changes to the current portfolio allocations. Informational item.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Regular Board Meeting Minutes November 28, 2023
2. Committee Reports
 - a. Innovation & Strategy Committee Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2024
3. Administrative Reports
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director's Reports
 - c. Statistics
4. Updated MPL Board Committee Assignments.

- Chair Morgan asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda presented as attachment A, pages 3-35 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

REPORTS

Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting.

Library Director Joan Johnson reported on the January 22, 2024 meeting. There was a recent upgrade to the CountyCat mobile app and training materials are available to patrons via MCFLS website. Library Legislative Day will be held on February 6, 2024. Representatives from MCFLS and member libraries will travel to Madison to meet with legislators to advocate for libraries and express appreciation for their support in the last budget cycle. The Shorewood Village Board has created an ad hoc committee to conduct the search for a new Library Director. The MCFLS Legislative Systems Services Committee will meet on February 2, 2024 to debrief on the strategic planning retreat held on January 18, 2024. Director Johnson and other member library directors attended the retreat, along with the MCFLS Board and MCFLS staff.

Findings from the retreat will be used to formulate the new MCFLS strategic plan, which will be shared with member libraries and boards. MCFLS Director Steve Hesel shared a draft set of goals with the Board. Among the goals were several agreements that must be renewed, including: renegotiation of the reciprocal borrowing agreement, the cataloging agreement, and the Resource Library services agreement. Informational item.

MPL Foundation.

MPL Foundation (MPLF) Executive Director Ryan Daniels provided an update on fundraising activities. In 2023, the Foundation raised over \$2M and contributed over \$1.27M to MPL. In 2024, MPLF will focus on community engagement and a major gift campaign for the new Martin Luther King branch. The Friends Literary Lunch will be held on April 25, 2024 and will feature author Douglas Brunt. The Benjamin Franklin Awards Ceremony will be held on September 26, 2024. All Trustees are invited to attend MPLF fundraising events. Informational item.

Martin Luther King Branch Redevelopment Project Update.

Library Director Joan Johnson shared an update on the progress and updated timeline for the project. The summary document is attached at the end of these minutes. The library build-out will go out to bid by February 2, 2024. Bids will be collected throughout February and MPL will present an award recommendation at the Building & Development Committee meeting on March 7, 2024. The MPL space will be available to begin build-out on April 1, 2024 and build-out will continue through December 2024. The target date for opening is January 20, 2025 to coincide with Martin Luther King Day. Informational item.

NEW BUSINESS

State Annual Report.

Trustee Morgan referred to the Statement Concerning Public Library Systems Effectiveness, which was included as Attachment B of the agenda. The statement is part of the Public Library Annual Report presented to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). Each year, MPL is required to report on the effective leadership of Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS). MCFLS Director Steve Hesel and his team have been great partners for MPL. Library Director Joan Johnson recommended the Board signify that MCFLS did provide effective leadership and adequately met the needs of the library. Her recommendation is based on the following accomplishments:

1. Thoroughly and proactively maximized use of system funds to support all 15 member libraries
2. Negotiated for the best pricing and licensing agreements from vendors
3. Identified options for MCFLS to use its budget to cover more shared costs, including the mobile catalog app, cataloging costs, electronic resources, and statistics tracking software

1. Strong marketing support for member libraries, with increased use of print, radio, and social media advertising
2. Reliable delivery of materials
3. Maintenance and upgrades to the shared catalog system
4. Continued support for MPL's LibraryNOW program
5. Coordination of continuing education opportunities for member library staff

Trustee Williams moved and Trustee Kowalski seconded a motion to approve the statement, which will be signed by President Sain and sent to DPI as part of MPL's Annual Report. Motion passed.

CLOSING REMARKS

Library Director Joan Johnson shared details of upcoming Black History Month activities and invited Trustees to attend, participate, and share with their networks. Informational item.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of January 23, 2024 was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.