

Report of the Board's Delegate to the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees

January 25, 2018

Submitted by President Mark Sain

Report of the Regular Meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library's Board of Trustees
Tuesday November 28, 2017.

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CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

In the absence of President John Gurda, Financial Secretary JoAnne Anton called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:45 p.m. on November 28, 2017, in Community Room 1 of the Central Library, 814 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

PRESENTJoAnne Anton, Ald. Milele Coggs¹, Ald. Cavalier Johnson, Ald. Nik Kovac,
Chris Layden, Sup. Marcelia Nicholson, Joan Prince, Jennifer Smith¹, Paula
Kiely

EXCUSEDMichele Bria, Sharon Cook, John Gurda, Dir. Mark Sain

STAFF.....Joan Johnson, Eileen Force Cahill, Dawn Lauber, Sam McGovern-Rowen,
Judy Pinger, Crystal Sura, Pat Swanson, Kelly Wochinske

OTHERS PRESENTEric Pearson, Budget and Policy Division; Frank Martinelli, Center for
Public Skills Training

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Mary Glass of Milwaukee Professionals Association LLC said the purpose of her attending both the previous and this meeting of the Board was to get further insight as to what the Public Library System is doing for city-wide input for broadband and neighborhood groups. She is also seeking a timeframe for an annual study of Team Internet Net Neutrality (TINN) to explain how that will affect the citizenry and the mission of the library.

RESOURCES, RECOMMENDATIONS, RESEARCH

MPL 2020 — Progress Report

The Trustees had received the MPL 2020 Progress Report prior to the meeting. Director Kiely explained that the report identifies the ways in which the library has focused efforts on the citywide strategies identified in the library's Strategic Plan. The report is available to the public on MPL.org.

REPORTS

Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board

(1) Trustee Kovac, Resource Library Representative, reported that, at the meeting on September 30, 2017, it had been announced that MCFLS Director Bruce Gay would be resigning at the end of the

¹ Trustees Coggs and Smith participated by conference phone.

year. An interview panel has been selected, and candidate interviews have been scheduled for December 6, 2017.

(2) The discussion at the November 27 meeting had included the approval of the cost to be charged to West Milwaukee residents for library services. West Milwaukee does not have its own public library.

(3) The Board had approved the two-year lease agreement between the Federated system and MPL.

(4) The MCFLS audit contract had been approved.

(5) The MCFLS budget had been approved at the County's budget hearing.

(6) The 2018 Interlibrary Loan Service Grant between MCFLS and MPL had also approved.

Library Finance and Personnel Committee

Chair Anton said the Committee had met just prior to the Board's regular meeting. She moved approval to award the contract for public computer access control and printing software to TBS Solutions for \$45,473.00. Trustee Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Building and Development Committee

In the absence of committee chair Bria, Trustee Kovac provided the report from the Committee's meeting of November 2, 2017. Trustee Kovac briefly summarized the Committee's discussion.

(1) Updates had been presented on the Mitchell Street Branch Condominium Association, the Good Hope Project development agreement, the Martin Luther King Project finance plan, and the Committee's progress on site-selection for a new library to replace the Capitol Branch.

(2) It was noted that, since the Committee's meeting, the Library had learned had learned that our application to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for grant assistance for the Mitchell Street Pocket Park had not been approved.

MPL Foundation Report

The MPL Foundation Director of Philanthropy, Patricia Swanson, said year-to-date the Foundation has raised \$4,518,000, which is an increase of over \$3,000,000 from last year. Senator Kohl's gift that was announced at the Benjamin Franklin Awards Celebration accounted for most of the increase. Recent gifts include a Schoenleber Foundation grant of \$100,000 to launch a Learning Commons in the Business and Technology Department located on the second floor of the Central Library. Phase one of the project begins with installing co-working spaces with state-of-the-art furniture that will create space for entrepreneurs, small business owners, and independent professionals. The Foundation had participated in Giving Tuesday. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation had matched every gift up to \$50,000.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Update

(1) The Milwaukee Public Library's 2018 adopted budget overview document was distributed at the meeting. Director Kiely said the Library's salary budget is going to be reduced further due to a mayoral veto that was overridden. As a result, an additional \$58,000 will be added to MPL's "vacancy deduction," the savings credited by keeping positions vacant. The Mayor's proposed budget included a 4.3% vacancy deduct (\$565,000). The additional \$58,000 increases that to almost \$623,000 and increases the Library's vacancy deduct to 4.8%. The Library's overall budget is reduced by 1.9%.

(2) Discussion ensued regarding an amendment that creates an Office of Early Childhood Initiatives at MPL and will create a new position funded with special City funds.

Update on Wisconsin Library System Changes

Director Kiely summarized the Public Library System’s Redesign Update, dated November 20, 2017, highlighting the timeline. The Board was reminded that this is a state-level project to improve the equity and efficiency of funding to public library systems, whose role is to support public libraries. There are currently 16 Wisconsin library systems. Director Kiely said the models being developed will provide services in a different and consolidated manner, with separate governance and administrative structures. Members from the Steering Team will meet with State Superintendent Tony Evers on December 5 to update him on the process. The final recommendation report will be drafted in May of 2018.

NEW BUSINESS

Communication from City Council Members

Trustee Anton asked the Board to read the letter from four members of the Common Council, dated November 10, 2017. Director Kiely noted that library administration is calculating the cost of keeping a branch library open until midnight on each day that it is now open. This expansion of hours is an increase of approximately 30%. Trustee Layden suggested that this item be forwarded to the Library Finance and Personnel Committee for further discussion. Trustee Kovac suggested that this could be topic of discussion at the February Board retreat. After a brief discussion, it was decided that Director Kiely will meet with the Alderpersons, provide the information, and inquire about intent and audience that led to the request. Chair Anton tabled the discussion until more information is available.

2018 Milwaukee Public Library Proposed Public Service Hours

The Milwaukee Public Library 2018 public service hours were reviewed. The schedule maintains current hours. Trustee Prince moved, and Trustee Chase seconded, the motion of approve the 2018 hours as presented. Motion passed.

STRATEGIC DISCUSSION

Board Retreat

Mr. Frank Martinelli, from the Center for Public Skills Training, distributed a document titled “MPL Scenario Development Process Work To Date” and the Urban Libraries Council’s “Statement on Race and Social Equity.” In preparation for the February 28, 2018 Board retreat, Trustees and the Administrative Team had been asked to complete a survey. Using the survey results, the MPL Retreat Planning Team had proposed two critical uncertainties for developing scenarios: the relevance of MPL, and resources to support MPL. Trustees and staff will form teams and be assigned to a scenario and answer questions on implications if a particular scenario was MPL’s future. The scenarios that are developed will be examined during the retreat, and discussion will lead to future decision making that will support the mission of the library.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees’ meeting of November 28, 2017, was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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