

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

September 28, 2023

Submitted by Director Siemsen

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ACTIVITIES OF JULY 2023 REGULAR MEETING**

**ATTENDANCE**

Video Conference Call via GoToMeeting

PRESENT: Mark Sain, Teresa Mercado, Michele Bria, Matthew Kowalski, Michael Morgan, Erika Siemsen, Ald. Scott Spiker, Sup. Kathleen Vincent, Joan Johnson

EXCUSED: Chris Layden, Ald. Milele Coggs, Felicia Saffold

STAFF: Neil Albrecht, Chantel Clark, Yves LaPierre, Tammy Mays, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns,

Joseph Moretz, Karli Pederson, Victoria Robertson, Marian Royal,

Rebecca Schweisberger

President Mark Sain called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:05 p.m. on July 25, 2023 with a quorum present.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Regular Board Meeting Minutes June 27, 2023
2. Committee Reports.
  - a. Building & Development Committee Meeting Minutes – July 6, 2023
3. Administrative Reports
  - a. Financial Report
  - b. Library Director's Reports

President Sain asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda presented as attachment A, pages 3-10 of the agenda. There was no motion to remove any items and the Consent Agenda was accepted.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns introduced Yves LaPierre, Library Construction Projects Manager. Mr. LaPierre transferred to MPL from the Department of City Development and has an extensive background in real estate, construction, and project management. Mr. LaPierre gave a brief overview of his personal and professional background.

**REPORTS**

4. Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting. Trustee Siemsen reported on the June 19 and July 17, 2023 meetings. Beginning in 2024, MCFLS will recognize Juneteenth Day as a national holiday and will close for the day. In partnership with Froedert Hospital, MCFLS is participating in a research project called 'All of Us', which is managed by the National Library of Medicine and National Institute of Health. The project goal is to collect public health data through interviews, DNA samples, and bloodwork. The data will be used to create a national database of healthcare issues and prepare for possible future healthcare needs. MCFLS member libraries can check out kits to use for programming related to the 'All of Us' initiative. Informational item.

5. MPL Board Services & Programs Committee Meeting. Trustee Vincent reported on the July 12, 2023 meeting. The Committee received the Safety Report from Security Manager Carlos Lopez. Associate

Library Director Chantel Clark briefed the Committee on a proposal to implement a new fee structure for the use of larger community rooms at MPL locations. The purpose of the fees is to recoup some of the costs associated with staffing, maintaining, and renovating the spaces. MPL currently does not charge for any meeting spaces except Centennial Hall. The Public Services team recommends implementing a 3-tier fee structure, with different charges for non-profit or library partners and commercial entities. Associate Director Clark noted there are meeting room policy revisions that may take longer to generate and will be presented to the Committee at a future meeting. Director Johnson shared information about MPL's role as a potential vendor for the Republican National Committee (RNC) next year. The Committee passed a motion to direct Library Director Johnson to prepare a fee proposal regarding venue reservation to be included in the Memorandum of Agreement for the MKE 2024 Host Committee and RNC. Informational item.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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6. Community Engagement Update. Library Director Joan Johnson gave a brief recap of the community engagement work and introduced Aziz Abdullah and Raven Eggson from INPOWER Solutions. INPOWER Solutions is a Milwaukee-based social impact and good-cause marketing agency who partnered with MPL to collect and process community feedback. MPL and INPOWER connected with over 5,000 respondents through in-person community engagement sessions, partner events, non-traditional outreach, and several survey options. In addition to data gathering, these events also allowed MPL to share information about library locations, hours, and services with the community. The data gathering phase has concluded and INPOWER is now analyzing the results. The final report will be shared with the MPL staff and Board, City officials, and the community at large. The INPOWER team reviewed the scope of the work, data analysis tools and challenges, and shared preliminary findings. Director Johnson noted working with the INPOWER team has been very rewarding and has been a fruitful partnership. Informational item.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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7. Memorandum of Agreement – MKE 2024 Host Committee. Library Director Joan Johnson shared MPL is a potential meeting space vendor for the 2024 Republican National Committee (RNC). All potential vendors for the RNC will be required to complete a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) issued by the MKE 2024 RNC Host Committee. Additionally, all venue partners are required to hold meeting spaces exclusively for RNC use between July 15-18, 2024. MPL has referred the MOA to the City Attorneys Office (COA) for review. If the document is sanctioned by the COA, MPL will present it to the Board for approval. MPL would like to include a new fee structure for spaces reservation in the MOA. Director Johnson referred to a memo regarding the proposed fee structure, listed as Attachment C of the agenda. The fees listed in the memo would only apply to venue use during the RNC. The Board recommended additional analysis of fees at comparable locations and incorporating additional fees to cover security costs. MPL staff will revise the memo and present it for approval at a future meeting. Informational item.

8. Building Projects Display. Director Johnson shared MPL has identified a location at Central Library to display information about the MPL Board and its contributions to library projects. Staff and Trustees briefly adjourned to view the space. The preliminary plan is to include a current Board photo, curator's notes about the work of the Board and highlighting building projects, and a decorative shovel and hard hat. Informational item.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

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President Sain thanked the Common Council and County Board of Supervisors for their work on the proposed 2% sales tax increase.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of June 27, 2023 was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.