

## Report of the Board's Delegate to the Library Board

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July 27, 2017

*Submitted by President Mark Sain*

### Call to Order and Roll Call

President Gurda called the regular monthly meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:35 p.m. on June 27, 2017, in Community Meeting Room 1 of the Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee.

PRESENT .....JoAnne Anton, Michele Bria, Sharon Cook, John Gurda, Ald. Cavalier Johnson, Ald. Nik Kovac, Sup. Marcelia Nicholson, Joan Prince<sup>1</sup>, Jennifer Smith, Paula Kiely

EXCUSED .....Ald. Milele Coggs, Chris Layden, Mark Sain

STAFF .....Eileen Force Cahill, Joan Johnson, Jackie Jones, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Judy Pinger, Crystal Sura, Pat Swanson, Kathleen Vandenboom-Hurley, Kelly Wochinske

OTHERS.....Eric Pearson, Budget and Policy Division

### Resources, Recommendations, and Research

#### **Special Collections – Wisconsin Architectural Archives**

Kathleen VandenBoom-Hurley, Humanities and Archives Librarian, presented an overview of the Wisconsin Architectural Archives collection housed in the Central Library: In 1975, the Wisconsin Architectural Archives collection began with architectural drawings from architect Alexander Eschweiler. The collection of drawings and plans record the styles of architects who shaped the history of Wisconsin. There is an index to more than 12,500 projects representing over 470 architects dating from 1851.

### Reports

#### **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board**

Trustee Nik Kovac, Resource Library Representative, reported on the MCFLS Board's meeting of June 12, 2017.

1. He said that there had been further discussion regarding increasing lending limits on DVDs and CDs, but the action had been tabled by the Library Directors Advisory Council (LDAC).
2. The Board reviewed the delivery-services contract, which included some possible changes in delivery boundaries.
3. Regular meeting items such as financial and administrative reports were also reviewed.

Director Kiely added that, since the meeting, there had been an update on state funding from MCFLS. The Wisconsin Library Association has been lobbying the legislators to return the level of funding for state library systems back to 2010 levels — an additional \$1.5 million. The Joint Finance Committee

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<sup>1</sup> Trustee Prince participated by conference phone.

approved an amendment to add that money to the budget. The funds, totaling \$90,000 for MCFL, would be used specifically for job training, early literacy, and connectivity.

### **Building and Development Committee**

Committee Chair Michele Bria provided the report from June 1, 2017, regarding the Forest Home, Mitchell Street, Mill Road/Good Hope, Martin Luther King, and Capitol project updates. Trustee Bria briefly summarized the committee's discussion.

### **Executive Committee**

President Gurda reported that the Committee had reviewed the Library's major initiatives and their status. Discussion on succession planning for the Board took place. Director Kiely will provide planning tools and resources for the Trustees to use later this year, and it may be an item for discussion at the future Board retreat. More information on the retreat, planned for February 2018, will be forthcoming.

### **Old Business**

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#### **Branch Redevelopment**

Construction Project Manager Sam McGovern-Rowen said the Design Kickoff meeting with Zimmerman Architectural Studios had been held on June 8, 2017. Zimmerman will be designing the interior of the new library on Good Hope Road. Discussion included the MPL's commitment to designing flexible spaces and encouraged the design team to be creative.

Zimmerman will hold at least three community meetings during the design process, not only to inform the public on initial renderings, but to solicit its feedback. The development team, Royal Capital LLC and Maures Development Group, and their architect, Engberg Anderson Architects, will attend the meetings. The first meeting will be scheduled in early August.

### **New Business**

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#### **Grand Opening of the Mitchell Street Branch**

Eileen Force Cahill, Community Relations & Engagement Director, reported that the idea for the grand opening celebration scheduled for September 30, 2017, is to reflect the Library Loud Awareness Campaign. There will be a lot of involvement with the community. She welcomed the Trustees to share their ideas with the Library's communications team. The Board will be updated on the events as the planning progresses.

### **Strategic Discussion**

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#### **Program & Service Sustainability**

President Gurda invited the Budget Analyst Eric Pearson to explain the City's budget process and timeline:

The budget process began in May. Mayor Barrett has given each department head a target allocation for submitting his/her budget request for 2018. Due to increases in City pension costs, the request is for reductions compared with the 2017 budget.

- The Mayor's proposed executive public hearing on the budget is scheduled for August 15, 2017.
- In late September, the Mayor will present the proposed budget to the Common Council.
- The Common Council's Finance & Personnel Committee's hearing with City departments will take place in October.

- The final budget will be adopted on November 10, 2017.

Discussion ensued regarding the City's Pension Board and its upcoming decision on the revised employer pension contribution rates that will be established beginning in 2018 and remain stable for the next five years. President Gurda encouraged the Trustees to advocate for the library system to inform the budget's decision-makers about the significant services that the Library provides for the community.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees' meeting of June 27, 2017, was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

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