

**REPORT OF THE BOARD’S DELEGATE TO THE
LIBRARY BOARD**

March 28, 2019

Submitted by President Mark Sain

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday January 22, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Michele Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:48 p.m. on January 22, 2019, in Community Room 1 of the Central Library, 814 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI, with a quorum present.

Present..... Michele Bria, Ald. Milele Coggs, Ald. Nik Kovac, Matt Kowalski, Chris Layden, Ald. Michael Murphy, Sup. Marcelia Nicholson, Joan Prince¹, School Board Director Mark Sain, Jennifer Smith, Paula Kiely

Excused James Marten, Jennifer Smith

Staff..... Rachel Arndt, Eileen Force Cahill, Kristina Gomez, Joan Johnson, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Judy Pinger, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske

Others Present..... Ryan Daniels, MPL Foundation; Gregg Hagopian, City Attorney’s Office; Dave Misky, Redevelopment Authority; Scott Ramlow , Uihlein/Wilson-Ramlow/Stein Architects; Lavelle Young, Young Development Group; Kalan Haywood, Haywood Group

TRUSTEE EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

FIELD WORK MKE

Eileen Force Cahill, Community Relations and Engagement Director, and Kristina Gomez, Events and Programming Librarian, shared information about Fieldwork MKE, Exploring the Ways We Know Our World — Poetry and Science Collaborations. Field Work MKE, which is presented by MPL and the Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM) in partnership with Poets House, is funded by The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and includes poet-in-residence Alison Hawthorne Deming. Field Work MKE attempts to create a model for cross-disciplinary collaboration among public libraries and natural history museums. Additionally, the project aims to help participants forge deeper connections to the natural world. Public programs include Urban Wildlife: Poetry in Your Backyard, Poetry Walks, and The Botany of Beverages. A Poetry Path connecting MPL and MPM will be created in spring 2019. Ms. Force Cahill encouraged Trustees to share information about this project with their networks.

NEW BUSINESS

STATEMENT ON MCFLS’S EFFECTIVENESS

Director Kiely referred to the Statement Concerning Public Library System Effectiveness, which is part of the Public Library’s Annual Report presented to the Department of Public Instruction. MPL has been fully satisfied with the services provided by MCFLS (the Milwaukee County Federated Library System). The Trustees agreed that MCFLS did provide effective leadership and adequately met the needs of the library.

¹ Trustee Prince participated by conference call.

Trustee Nicholson moved, and Trustee Kovac seconded, a motion to approve the form, which will be signed by President Bria and sent to DPI as part of MPL's Annual Report. Motion passed.

SALE OF FOREST HOME BRANCH BUILDING

President Bria moved that the Board retire to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes, sec. 19.85(1)(e) — which allows a governing body to retire to closed session “...for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session” — for the purpose of deliberating over the purchase price of the former library property at 1432 W. Forest Home Avenue. Roll was called, and the motion was unanimously passed, at which time the conference call with Dr. Prince was terminated. Director Kiely, Assistant Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Assistant City Attorney Gregg Hagopian, Executive Director of the Redevelopment Authority Dave Misky, and Administrative Assistant Rebecca Schweisberger remained in the meeting. After discussion, the meeting was reconvened in open session.

REPORTS

MILWAUKEE COUNTY FEDERATED LIBRARY SYSTEM (MCFLS) BOARD

(1) Library Public Services Area Manager Rachel Arndt reported on the MCFLS Board's meeting of January 14, 2019. The Library Directors Advisory Council Chair was changed from Pat Laughlin (Hales Corners) to Susan Draeger-Anderson (North Shore). There were no changes to the Board of Trustees' Officers. Four of the MCFLS Trustees' terms will end in 2020, and the Board has started planning to recruit new members.

(2) There were proposed and accepted revisions to line items in the MCFLS budget, with no changes to the total.

(3) The Trustees approved the 2019 Interlibrary Loan Services contract between MCFLS and MPL.

(4) Work continues on strategic planning. Additional updates will be presented on February 28, 2019.

(5) Governor Tony Evers approved the MCFLS's 2019 System Plan.

(6) An intern from the UW-Milwaukee School of Information Sciences will work with MCFLS Library Systems Administrator Jennifer Schmidt on website revision.

(7) MCFLS Director Steve Hesper thanked MPL Facilities for completing the installation of a kitchen area in the MCFLS's office.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Trustee Nicholson reported on the January 10, 2019, meeting of the Services and Programs Committee.

The Committee had recommended upholding the ban of Jerome Johnson. Trustee Nicholson moved to uphold the ban, and Trustee Layden seconded. Motion passed.

MEETING OF THE BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Trustee Sain reported on the January 3, 2019, meeting of the Building and Development Committee.

Library Construction Manager Sam McGovern-Rowen presented a memo comparing the Garfield Theater building and the original Request for Proposal (RFP). The Committee had approved hiring an architect to serve as a consultant to the Board on the proposed site for the new Martin Luther King Branch Library. Scott Ramlow of Uihlein/Wilson-Ramlow/Stein Architects toured the Garfield Theater building with MPL staff on January 11, 2019, and will review the cost estimates. Mr. Ramlow addressed the Board to share his initial assessment of the property, which is consistent with Mr. McGovern-Rowen's conclusions in the memo. Discussion ensued about possible structural changes to the building and visibility, signage, and traffic safety at the proposed location.

Lavelle Young of Young Development Group addressed the Board regarding the project's financing. The development team will not pursue tax credits as part of the funding.

On behalf of the Committee, Trustee Sain moved to continue exploration of the Garfield Theater building as an option and to approve the hiring of an architect to serve as a consultant on this project. Trustee Nicholson seconded. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees' meeting of January 22, 2019, was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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