

Report of the Board's Delegate to the Library Board

March 22, 2018

Submitted by President Mark Sain

Regular Meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library's Board of Trustees Tuesday, January 23, 2018

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President John Gurda called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:45 p.m. on January 23, 2018, in Community Room 1 of the Central Library, 814 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI.

PRESENTJoAnne Anton, Michele Bria, Ald. Milele Coggs¹, Sharon Cook, John Gurda, Ald. Cavalier Johnson, Ald. Nik Kovac, Chris Layden, Sup. Marcelia Nicholson, Jennifer Smith, Paula Kiely

EXCUSEDJoan Prince, Director Mark Sain

STAFF.....JeTaun Colbert, Barbara Henry, Joan Johnson, Eileen Force Cahill, Dawn Lauber, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Judy Pinger, Crystal Sura, Pat Swanson, Kelly Wochinske

OTHERS PRESENTFrank Martinelli, Center for Public Skills Training

Several Trustees were excused before the meeting adjourned; however a quorum was maintained throughout the meeting.

Ms. JeTaun Colbert was introduced as the new manager of the Washington Park Branch.

RESOURCES, RECOMMENDATIONS, RESEARCH

Net Neutrality

Ms. Judy Pinger, Assistant Library Director, presented a brief background and history on net neutrality and the potential impact on public libraries in general and Milwaukee Public Library in particular. The Federal Communications Commission's vote in December 2017 to repeal net neutrality has the possibility to greatly alter the Internet landscape as we now use it. The current net neutrality legislation mandates that Internet service providers provide equal access to all data, regardless of bandwidth and content. The repeal of net neutrality would result in Internet service providers having the ability to restrict and control internet traffic based on a fee-based platform. The impact on libraries would be significant, as many of our patrons receive Internet access at the library and rely on the open web for their many informational, educational, and recreational needs.

President John Gurda suggested sending a letter to Wisconsin Senators advocating for the importance of net neutrality for libraries.

¹ Trustee Coggs participated by conference phone.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Gurda asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda. Trustee Cook asked about the decrease in unique visitors listed on the Computer, Internet, and Electronic Statistics. Ms. Pinger said that, late last year, it was discovered there was a miscount of internal hits to CountyCat's web page, which has since been corrected. President Gurda entertained a motion to approve. Trustee Anton moved, and Trustee Cook seconded, a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Motion passed.

REPORTS

Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board

Trustee Nik Kovac, Resource Library Representative, gave a report from the MCFLS Board's meeting of January 22, 2018. The Board had met in executive session and selected Mr. Steve Hesel as MCFLS's new Director. Mr. Hesel, who accepted the position, was most recently MCFLS's Systems Administrator. The election of President Paul Ziehler, Vice-President Paula Penebaker, and Treasurer Nik Kovac was approved.

MPL Finance and Personnel Committee

(1) The Committee had received US Bank's Market Review and Outlook report dated December 2017 prior to the meeting. Chair JoAnne Anton reported that, at the meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee held earlier on January 23, 2018, the advisor from US Bank reviewed MPL's Trust Fund investments and did not recommend any changes to the portfolio.

(2) Financial Secretary Anton said the usual quarterly report on internal accounting controls had found nothing out of order.

(3) Financial Secretary Anton moved the Committee's recommendation to award the contract for Financial and Compliance Audit Services of the Milwaukee Public Library's Trust Fund to Reilly, Penner, & Benton. Trustee Bria seconded the motion. Motion passed.

(4) Library administration is working on an agreement with Ancestry.com for an institutional-level lifetime membership to Ancestry.com in exchange for digitizing MPL's collection of Milwaukee County vital records.

MPL Foundation

(1) The MPL Foundation's Director of Philanthropy, Pat Swanson, shared that the Foundation has raised \$4.7 million in 2017, a \$3.4 million increase over the previous year. The Foundation also has attracted 425 new donors.

(2) Cargill Corporation has donated \$100,000 to support to support the community kitchen with culinary literacy programs and classes at the Mitchell Street branch.

(3) The Foundation's staff have recently rebranded the planned-giving campaign, naming it the Legacy Leaders Society. A new brochure will be mailed, and an information-session kickoff event will be held in April during National Library week.

Branch Redevelopment

(1) Library Construction Project Manager, Sam McGovern-Rowen, provided an update and reviewed the schedule for all projects.

(2) The City Attorney's office, developer Royal Capital LLC, and Maures Development Group are working through final details of the Good Hope Project Development Agreement. Mr. McGovern-Rowen

is working to determine the final pricing of the scope of the white box. The anticipated closing of financing is mid-March.

(3) Ground breaking for the mixed-use facility located at 7717 W. Good Hope Road will take place this spring. The grand opening of the new 17,500-square-foot library is expected in summer of 2019. The library team, along with Zimmerman Architectural Studios Inc., has been meeting regularly to design the library's space. A final community meeting will be scheduled in February. The final design of the library will be presented to the Building and Development Committee in March, with a recommendation to the full Board at its regular meeting on March 27, 2018.

(4) The update on the mixed-use project that will replace the current Martin Luther King Library at 310 W. Locust Street is that Young Development continues to wait for a decision from the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) as to whether they received an allocation in new market tax credits. The team continues to work on the financing package and design to prepare for the WHEDA's announcement.

(5) In anticipation of replacing the Capitol library, library administration has been researching sites and presenting demographics to the Building and Development Committee. The RFP for a developer will be site-specific.

OLD BUSINESS

Board Retreat

Consultant Frank Martinelli distributed the MPL Board of Trustees' draft governance retreat agenda for its retreat on February 28, 2018. Mr. Martinelli briefly summarized the session that will include presentations of four future MPL scenarios. The Trustees will discuss the implications that the scenarios will have on board governance and develop strategies that are relevant to any of the scenarios. The goal is to provide opportunities for MPL leadership to hone their strategic and generative-analysis and decision-making skills, thereby enhancing the Board of Trustees' capacity to govern effectively in the future.

Communication from City Council Members

Director Kiely said that she will meet with Alderman Kahlif Rainey regarding his communication on expanding library hours and will provide more information to the Board following that discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee

President Gurda appointed Trustees Prince, Johnson, and himself to serve on a committee to nominate board officers for the 2018-2020 term. A meeting of the Nominating Committee will be scheduled in spring. The election will be held on May 22, 2018.

STRATEGIC DISCUSSION

Urban Library Council — Equity Statement

The Board considered formal adoption of the Statement on Race and Social Equity developed by members of the Urban Libraries Council. The trustees reviewed the document, which summarized ways in which library systems are working to achieve equity in the communities that they serve. Discussion ensued. Trustee Kovac made a motion to accept the document. Trustee Bria seconded the motion. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees' meeting of January 23, 2018, was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

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