

## REPORT OF THE BOARD'S DELEGATE TO THE MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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June 28, 2018

*Submitted by President Mark Sain*

### CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President John Gurda called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:32 p.m. on April 24, 2018, in community room 1 of the Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, with a quorum present.

Present:	JoAnne Anton, Michele Bria, Ald. Milele Coggs, Sharon Cook, John Gurda, Ald. Nik Kovac*, Chris Layden*, Joan Prince, Mark Sain, Paula Kiely
Excused:	Ald. Cavalier Johnson, Milwaukee County Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson Jennifer Smith
Staff:	Rachel Arndt, Ryan Daniels, Eileen Force Cahill, Barbara Henry, Joan Johnson, Dawn Lauber, Sarah Leszczynski, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Judy Pinger, Rebecca Schweisberger, Crystal Sura, Kelly Wochinske
Others Present:	Susan Benton, President and CEO of the Urban Libraries Council; Eric Pearson, Budget and Policy Division

\*Trustees Kovac and Layden participated by conference phone.

### SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

#### STAFF RECOGNITION

President Gurda presented a resolution honoring Crystal Sura and thanking her for her 37 years of service to the Library.

#### TRUSTEE RECOGNITION

President Gurda presented a resolution honoring board member JoAnne Anton and thanking her for her three years of service.

#### TEEN INTERNS

Education and Outreach Services Coordinator Kelly Wochinske introduced four of the teen interns employed through the City's Promise Zone fund. The Interns answered inquiries from the Trustees and explained several of the programs that they facilitate in the Maker's Space at Mitchell Street Library.

#### BOARD PHOTOGRAPH

The Trustees took a brief recess for the annual official photograph of the Board.

### LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

President Gurda noted that the Nominating Committee's recommended slate is Michelle Bria for President, Joan Prince for Vice-President, and Chris Layden for Financial Secretary. The vote will be taken in May.

### REPORTS

#### MPL FOUNDATION'S REPORT

- (1) The MPL Foundation's Executive Director, Ryan Daniels, provided a report on fundraising.

- To date, the Foundation has raised over \$300,000.
- The Foundation has established a relationship with Cargill, who has underwritten the Foundation's work at the Community Kitchen.

(3) There was an increase in the percentage of money raised for the Foundation through the City of Milwaukee's 2018 Visions campaign.

(4) The Friends of the Library has a new agreement with the Foundation to employ a part-time staff person to manage the Bookseller.

(5) The Friends of the Library's next Literary Luncheon will be held on May 11, 2018, and will feature author Luis Alberto Urrea.

(6) The annual Benjamin Franklin Award celebration will honor Jay and Madonna Williams. Mr. Williams has served on the MPL Foundation's Board as president and vice-president. The event will be held on October 11, 2018.

## STRATEGIC DISCUSSION

### RACE & SOCIAL EQUITY AND BOARD LEADERSHIP

(1) The Trustees were honored to welcome Susan Benton, President and CEO of the Urban Libraries Council (ULC). President Benton was introduced by Trustee Prince, who served on the ULC's board when she was selected as ULC President and CEO. President Benton explained the role of the ULC in helping its members connect with their communities and to bring together like-minded leaders. President Benton believes that the Library Trustees' responsibility is to assess and meet residents' needs and to reset the image of the library. Trustees have connections with local business and civic leaders that can be leveraged to dispel the outdated image of libraries as book repositories.

(2) A primary focus of the ULC is offering education for everyone. Public libraries are uniquely positioned to offer neutral, judgement-free spaces in which to learn. Adults who may have had negative experiences with school feel comfortable learning in the library. Children need organized programming and summer learning initiatives to introduce new ideas and ways of learning. The ULC recommends public libraries collaborate and partner with public schools. Both institutions can work together to support educational goals.

(3) Public libraries are critically important in creating digital inclusion. Access to computers, the Internet, and training to use new technology is particularly important. A significant portion of Milwaukee residents do not have access to the Internet, which impacts their lives in many ways, including education and employment. Digital inclusion and literacy initiatives should include patrons of all ages. Maintaining updated equipment and offering public technology classes are very important.

(4) Another focus of ULC's community development is engaging the library as an entrepreneurial hub that offers people a place to learn how to create, to expand, and to manage their business plans. Libraries should use this 'social capital' to benefit their communities and to create new alliances.

## ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees' meeting of March 27, 2018, was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

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