LIBRARY BOARD PRESENT:
Beverly Aplikowski, Paula Mielke, David Norrgard, Janice Rapheal, Roberta Weltzin, Lori-Anne Williams

STAFF PRESENT:
Susan Nemitz, Library Director; Mary Larson, Library Board Coordinator; Sandy Walsh, Deputy Director; Lynn Wyman, Deputy Director; Kristi Saksvig, Communications Manager; Carrie Watts, Mounds View Library Manager

OTHERS PRESENT:
Jan Parker, Ramsey County Commissioner; Arnold & Mary Anne Lindberg, Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries; Dave Jacobsen, New Brighton Mayor; Dean Lotter, New Brighton City Manager; Gina Bauman, Char Samuelson, New Brighton City Council; Pat Klaers, Arden Hills City Administrator; Brenda Holden, David Grant, Fran Holmes, Arden Hills City Council; Charlie Kachel, Arden Hills resident; James Alvey, Paul Bjerke, Geoff Holliman, Brandon Krosch, New Brighton residents; Matthew Anderson, White Bear Lake resident

CALL TO ORDER:
Williams called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Ramsey County Library in Mounds View, 2576 County Road 10.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Public comment was deferred to the Arden Hills Update – Public Response agenda item.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES:
Norrgard made a motion to approve the agenda for September 15, 2010, and the minutes of August 18, 2010, as presented. Aplikowski seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous vote.

PROCLAMATION REGARDING THE VOLUNTEER SERVICE OF BURTON NYGREN:
Library Board Trustee Burt Nygren resigned recently following a move out of the suburban Ramsey County area. Norrgard made a motion to award the Certificate of Appreciation to Burton Nygren for his contributions to the Ramsey County Library, and to authorize the Library Board Chair to sign the Certificate. Aplikowski seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS REGARDING THE RETIREMENT OF MARY JONES:
Norrgard made a motion to approve the Resolution Regarding the Retirement of Mary Jones, and to authorize the signatures of the Library Board Chair and Library Director. Aplikowski seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

AWARD CONTRACT FOR LIBRARY PERIODICALS:
Ramsey County Library obtains the bulk of its periodicals subscriptions through a primary subscription services vendor, currently EBSCO. The term of EBSCO’s current contract to deliver periodical services expires on December 31, 2010, prompting a review of subscription services vendors.

Library staff prepared a request for proposal for the services of subscription services vendors, with responses opened on September 2, 2010. Proposals were received from three vendors: Basch Subscriptions, EBSCO Information Services, and W.T. Cox Subscriptions.

An analysis completed by library staff included reviewing costs, discounts, number of titles offered, customer service, online ordering and claiming tools, and references. EBSCO had the highest ratings for all the criteria except total bid cost, which within 3.5% of the lowest bidder.
Based on Ebsco’s better website, greater number of titles offered, ability to renew subscriptions online, and the
disruption in service resulting from changing to a vendor without online renewal capability, along with the slight
difference in bid prices, library staff recommend that the contract be awarded to EBSCO Information Services.

Norrgard made a motion to award the contract of primary subscription services vendor to EBSCO Information Services
at the one-year bid price of $30,327.69. Revisions to the Library’s subscription order or publisher price increases may
result in additional payments to the vendor. The contract period shall commence October 1, 2010 to allow for
placement of orders for 2011 periodicals without interruptions in service, and end December 31, 2011, with an option
to renew on an annual basis up to two additional years. Motion subject to the approval of the Ramsey County
Attorney’s Office. Aplikowski seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous vote.

ARDEN HILLS UPDATE – PUBLIC RESPONSE:
In addition to the comments received to date by the Library, the Library Board gave interested parties the opportunity
to share their opinion on the two options being considered. Comments were limited to two minutes per individual.

Dean Lotter, New Brighton City Manager: On September 14, the New Brighton City Council approved proposed lease
terms for the space in the New Brighton Family Service Center (NBFSC). Lotter noted that the facility is a community
center “plus,” serves more than 350,000 visitors per year, and is committed to serving all members of the public. He
stated that traffic is 4.5 times higher near the NBFSC than the alternate site, and also has easy freeway access, public
transportation, and new trails going in. Additional housing in the Northwest Quadrant will add to the number of
residents in close proximity to the site. Lotter submitted a letter encouraging the selection of the New Brighton site.

Dave Jacobsen, New Brighton Mayor: The Mayor encouraged the Library Board to avoid making the selection a
competitive process, and urged them to consider the region as a whole when making their decision. He believed that by
evaluating the criteria outlined in his letter, the NBFSC site would serve the greater community.

Geoff Holliman, New Brighton resident: He and his family are library users. His main concerns are accessibility and
public transportation. These two issues, plus the greater population density in New Brighton, lend support to the
NBFSC site. Also, operating costs over the 20-year lease term should be considerably less at the New Brighton site.

John Mehrkens, Presbyterian Homes and Services (PHS): He wanted to clarify IT infrastructure costs in the PHS
proposal ($12,000-$18,000 versus the $40,000-$42,000 originally quoted). He reiterated the PHS offer, noting a
compelling cost basis, the opportunity for inter-generational programming, and the robust volunteer program already in
place. He encouraged the Library Board to strongly consider the PHS site.

Fran Holmes, Arden Hills City Council: Councilmember Holmes stated that the residents of Arden Hills want the
Library Board to “back off”, think about things a little more and talk about keeping the library at the current location.
She recommended that the Arden Hills City Council is more than willing to have a work session with the Library Board
to talk about library assistance, their helping the current location with capital improvements and operating expenses.
She didn’t think that had been communicated to the Board.

Secondly, she felt it’s important for the Library Board to know that Arden Hills is not inclined to re-zone the property
that the library is currently on. That land was given to Ramsey County for a library and the people are already upset
that that the land is potentially going to be sold for another purpose. She said that the City Council was not inclined to
re-zone that from the R-1, which is the single family housing.

She wanted to call to the Board’s attention that there is now a trail along E-2 that goes directly to the library and is
connected with a lot of trails that go to Tony Schmidt Park and Perry Park.

Brenda Holden, Arden Hills City Council: She looked at the packet the Library Board has, and neither location seems
to be an ideal spot. Last year, the council talked about if the boiler broke, the city would be happy to fix it, until they
can spend enough time figuring out where is the best location. They never heard back from anyone on that proposal.
She asked that the Board not rush the decision and get rid of valuable land that may be needed 30 years down the road,
when the County won’t be able to afford it.
Pat Klaers, Arden Hills City Administrator: Pat commented that the Council discussed the situation, but no official vote was taken. He stated that the City is open to considering the PHS proposal, but could not make a decision before the public hearing on tax increment financing scheduled for October 25th. He also affirmed what a great location the existing facility is at, and encouraged the Library Board to consider all options including that one.

Gina Bauman, New Brighton City Council: Councilmember Bauman stated, “None of us are here to pit Arden Hills against New Brighton.” She felt the service of a library is for all of us enjoy, old or young. She believes that the Family Service Center is that type of place already. As a Council, they visited the library in North St. Paul, and were very impressed. It would be a great fit in New Brighton. A lot of people already go to the Community Center. It’s a community thing. Libraries are about serving the community.

Mary Anne Lindberg, Arden Hills resident: Lindberg said, as a resident of Arden Hills for more than 40 years, and a retired school librarian, and a member of the Friends of the Library for more than 30 years, she feels that libraries should be an inspirational place, with a special feeling. She found the New Brighton facility to be utilitarian. She hated to lose the site of the current library in Arden Hills. It has pathways, lovely views of the park, access to Mounds View High School and Valentine Hills Elementary School, and is close to 35W. It is a neighborhood library. The original library in Arden Hills was located at County Road D and Fairview Avenue, across from Presbyterian Homes. Citizens of Arden Hills have always been passionate supporters of libraries.

Sushila Shah, Arden Hills resident: Ms. Shah lives in Arden Hills, and is a professional librarian. She joined the Arden Hills Library Task Force, and learned about the importance of site selection. When considering a location, need to ensure room for future expansion, she felt that money is not everything. Coming from Uganda, she learned that when you need money, you can find money. She feels the City of Arden Hills would consider contributing financial support for maintenance costs.

Brandon Krosch, New Brighton resident: Also a member of the Task Force, he has a 3 year old, a 1 year old, and another child on the way. He believed that kids are an important factor in making this decision. The New Brighton site is at the hub of everything, with schools close, etc. He would like to see more kids back in the library, which he doesn’t see at the current location or at the Presbyterian Homes site. While no location is ideal, the NBFSC is at the center of what’s happening in the community, and is his choice.

Nemitz noted that the public response included in the Library Board’s mailing is not scientific. Feedback was solicited via news articles in the papers, Facebook and Twitter, the Library’s website, and displays in the library. She also indicated that in the analysis of the two proposals, in some cases it was difficult to create exact comparisons, with fiber costs for telecommunications as one example.

Norrgard made a motion to recommend to the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners to accept the proposal from the City of New Brighton and initiate formal discussion to achieve an acceptable formal agreement. Rapheal seconded the motion.

Norrgard noted that discussing the Arden Hills library in its current location has been a Library Board issue for approximately five years. There was a motion at that time to stop service at that facility, but the County Board helped identify funding to keep the facility open. However, Arden Hills is currently operating on one-time funds, with a closing date of December 31, 2010. This is not a recent conversation, but one of long standing. It is the least efficient facility. To rehab it would cost in the range of $1.8 million, not $300,000, which is just the quick fix. It doesn’t address the ongoing problems as the needs of libraries have changed.

The Library Board is following the Master Plan in developed in 2008 after public meetings, and much input and thoughtful discussion. The Board is now following that Plan. His reasons for supporting the New Brighton proposal include:

1. It is in a multi-use facility that currently caters to all age ranges.
2. It’s an activity center, not a home or residential setting.
3. Actively trying to encourage children to come into the library, and promote lifelong library use. Putting the library in a facility where there is greater potential for children is of great appeal to the Library Board.
4. It has a dense population, on active bus lines, nearby bike paths, and close to schools.
5. It is available as early as June 2011, versus fall 2012 at the Presbyterian Homes site.
Aplikowski stated that she is split on this issue. As the former mayor of Arden Hills, she has been dealing with this issue for several years. The City did make some movements to shore up the library, but did not sustain that motion. Besides cutting grass and snowplowing, the City has not provided support, but the intent was always there. She is aware of the vagaries of the building, and wishes we could recondition it. The public seems to love the current site, rather than the building itself. Since a complete remodeling of the building doesn’t address the library’s facility and budgetary issues, her second choice is the New Brighton proposal. With a 20-year lease, it isn’t feasible to hang on to the property, although the site is gorgeous and she would hate to lose it. It is a tough decision. The Presbyterian Homes proposal is appealing because it would be a brand new library space, but the later timeline would mean no library services in the area for 18 months or more.

Williams clarified that the operating costs for the current facility are prohibitive, rather than the potential remodeling costs. Reducing ongoing operating expenses was the reason the library sought a partner to help defray costs.

Nemitz indicated that public computers would be available at the New Brighton site for 100 hours per week. The goal is to economize in all the library facilities. The larger libraries have economies of scale, while the smaller libraries need partners to help defray costs. The Library tried to find a partner to keep the current site in Arden Hills, but none developed.

Mielke noted that the New Brighton facility is in better location to serve the population than the Presbyterian Homes site, which is closer to the Roseville library. Aplikowski disagreed, noting that it may be closer in miles, but it’s not easier to get to.

Weltzin stated that it would have been exciting to plan a brand new library, in a different type of facility than we have been in, but we don’t have the luxury at this time. The success of the North St. Paul library suggests that the New Brighton site would also be successful. The Library received a huge amount of feedback on the two proposals, and the overwhelming majority favored the New Brighton site. Weight needs to be given to the public that took the time to respond. The partnership with Presbyterian Homes is an intriguing idea, but the time is not right.

Raphael liked the accessibility of the New Brighton site, although the Presbyterian Homes proposal would have resulted in a beautiful library. Overall, she favors the New Brighton proposal.

Nemitz noted that the property is currently zoned R-1 (residential). The City Council has it within their authority to not change the zoning, which would impact the financing of the new facility. There is the possibility of selling the property as residential property. Currently, potential revenues for funding the project are higher than the need, primarily from unexpended balances from the Roseville project.

Williams indicated that she drove by both proposed locations, and feels strongly in favor of the New Brighton location. She felt that the site reaches into the community, and has high usage already. Aplikowski concurred, noting that between the two locations, she prefers New Brighton for the service area it covers. She wishes we had more time to look at options, but with a decision needed tonight, she favors New Brighton. Williams noted that she is very excited about the New Brighton proposal, and doesn’t feel the Library is “settling” because a decision is needed quickly.

Aplikowski then called the question on Norrgard’s motion recommending the New Brighton proposal. The Library Board unanimously voted in favor of the motion, with no abstentions.

2010-2011 BUDGET UPDATE:
One-time funds have been used to maintain service at the library in Arden Hills during 2010. Starting in January, funding is reduced to the level compatible with a gateway library. If the Library does not close December 31, funds will need to be identified to maintain operations at the current facility until a new facility is ready to move into.

The Library Board discussed whether to close December 31, continue operations at the current site, with funding to be identified, or offer transitional services at other locations including potentially the New Brighton Family Service Center. The Board will consider this issue further after approval of the New Brighton proposal by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners in October. Potential improvements and modifications (signage, etc.) to the Family Service Center were discussed and will be included in the lease negotiations.
ROSEVILLE LIBRARY UPDATE:
Following a complaint regarding noise coming from the two chillers located at the Ramsey County Library in Roseville, the City of Roseville took a series of sound measurements at the site, which the Library failed. Library and Property Management staff are following up on this issue.

WHITE BEAR LAKE UPDATE:
Wyman reported on the recent meeting of the White Bear Lake Task Force, and distributed copies of a budget information memo there were given to the Task Force members.

This was the second meeting attended by Wyman, and the tone was much more positive and energized. The Task Force set up committees for partnerships and visioning for the current facility. The visioning committee will visit other metro libraries to learn what 21st century libraries look like. Visits of Roseville, Stillwater and Forest Lake were schedule for September 25, with more site visits possible. The next Task Force meeting will be October 19.

Commissioner Reinhardt also attended the recent meeting. The role of the Task Force was considered in relation to the Library Board and the County Board. Nemitz suggested inviting the White Bear Lake Task Force members to the November Library Board meeting to learn what they hope to achieve.

Nemitz noted that timing is a critical issue in regard to the White Bear Lake Task Force. The Library Board and staff will need to be focused on the Arden Hills/New Brighton issue for the next several months, as well as completing the Roseville project, RFID, and other projects underway. The County’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process will begin again in spring 2011. Based on the Master Plan, the Library requested planning funds in 2009 to expand the library in Shoreview to a regional library, but was turned down due to the additional operating costs that would result. If a potential partnership develops, then the White Bear Lake library would move to the forefront, but at the current time the Shoreview library would be next in the schedule.

MOUNDS VIEW LIBRARY REPORT:
A written report was submitted by Carrie Watts, Library Manager, prior to the meeting. (Available upon request)

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:
Nemitz’s September 2010 report to the Library Board was mailed prior to the meeting. (Available upon request)

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT:
The Friends office will be moving into a larger space in the Shoreview Library in October. This will increase flexibility of work schedules for the two part time staff members and provide meeting space for Friends’ committees. The Friends will also be renting vacated storage space next to the new office in which we can store boxes of books between large book sales.

In August, the officers, committee and project chairs, and staff developed a 17-month calendar and coordinated work plan. It includes all projected Friends activities, projects, and events with the exception of capital campaigns. On Saturday, October 30, the Friends are sponsoring an Antiques Program at Roseville. The next big book sale will run from November 4 through November 7 at the Maplewood Library.

The Friends recently became a client of Constant Contact to send e-mail messages to our members and others. This will help recruit volunteers, promote fundraising events, and spread the word about the work the Friends do.

The book store and on-line sales managers have been working with RCL staff on refining the process for sorting materials donated to RCL. Since the Friends will begin publicizing the need for used materials to compensate for the reduction in RCL’s collection budget, it is essential that there is an efficient system in place for handling donations. The new process will be finalized on September 16. More volunteers are sought to help with this process at Roseville and Shoreview.

The Reading Friends Literacy Project is being expanded to include afterschool programming but needs more volunteers to cover the schedule. The Friends are delaying the next order for brick garden pavers until the end of February for a spring installation so there is lots of time for people to place orders.
Last week the Friends learned of the deaths of two of the founding donors of the Endowment Fund, Kay Brinkman and Philip Zoubek. It is believed that both of them left bequests to the Friends in their wills.

**MELSA REPORT:**
Norrgard reported that he was unable to attend the September 8 meeting of the MELSA Governing Board. The regional library system crossover reimbursement amount received by RCL was included in Nemitz’s Director’s Report.

**NEXT MEETING: October 20, 2010, RCL – White Bear Lake, 4698 Clark Avenue, 6:30 p.m.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED 8:10 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Larson,
Library Board Coordinator