CALL TO ORDER:
Norrgard called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at the Ramsey County Library in North St. Paul, 2290 North First Street, in the North St. Paul Community Center.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS:
Meeting attendees introduced themselves for the record.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES:
North St. Paul Library Report and Liaison and Library Board Committee Appointments were added to the agenda. Nemitz proposed that the February 15, 2006 minutes be amended from “southeast corner” to “northeast corner” on page 3 under Bus Shelter Proposal. Changes to the March 1, 2006 minutes include “task force recommendations #3 & #4 appear to require new funding” and deleting reference to the next meeting taking place on March 1. Williams made a motion to approve the revised agenda and minutes as discussed. The motion was seconded by Anderson, and approved unanimously by the Library Board.

NORTH ST. PAUL LIBRARY REPORT:
Karen Boettcher, library manager, distributed a brief summary regarding the first year of business at the new library, including successes and opportunities for improvement. She also asked the Library Board for its definition of a successful library. The Board members were pleased with the circulation figures and program attendance. Anderson indicated that the new library is experimental, and cannot be compared on all levels to other library models in Ramsey County or the Twin Cities. The Board’s goal was to utilize partnerships to maximize resources, and on that factor has been successful with North St. Paul. Kessel noted his concern about having too many library facilities.

2007 LIBRARY CAPITAL REQUEST:
Nemitz reported that the Library Board should approve capital requests in January of each year for consideration by the Ramsey County CIP Committee. Last year was the first time the Library had submitted a capital request for committee consideration. With 2007 being the second year of a biennial budget cycle, few changes will be accepted. However, departments may submit modifications to their requests.
The 2007 Library request consists of two projects—Roseville pre-design, and deferred maintenance. The pre-design would be funded through the net proceeds of the $1.8 million dollar appropriation for land acquisition and planning at Roseville, which have already been approved by the County Board. The deferred maintenance would be funded through the proceeds from the sale of the former library facility in North St. Paul, requiring County Board approval.

Nemitz noted that there is very little room for additional bonding in the 2007 Ramsey County budget, but the Library is cued and ready for the 2008 budget. Estimates for the construction budget for the Library in Roseville are being revised. Nemitz shared her concern that earlier estimates would be insufficient for the scope of the project, especially with several years’ inflation. The existing pre-design drawings and cost estimates were developed in 2002. She would like to have the capital budget determined by the program needs at the facility.

The deferred maintenance estimate includes several projects at Arden Hills. Although the future of that facility has not been determined, any changes are likely to be several years away, and some maintenance cannot be deferred any longer.

Anderson made a motion to approve the Library Capital Request as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2007 Request</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roseville Pre-design</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Maintenance</td>
<td>$334,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2008 Request</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roseville Construction</td>
<td>Being Reviewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Maintenance</td>
<td>$235,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cox seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously by the Library Board.

LIBRARY FINES AND FEES:
The Library Board reviewed the current fines and fees charged by Ramsey County Library, as well as those charged by the Twin Cities library systems. Staff has recommended that the meeting room rental fees, charged to for-profit organizations only, be increased and simplified. Roseville and White Bear Lake, with the largest meeting rooms, would charge $50 per hour for use by for-profit groups, while Maplewood, Mounds View, and Shoreview, whose meeting rooms are smaller, would charge $25 per hour.

Kessel made a motion to approve the current fees for overdue and lost library materials, with the addition of a $1 replacement fee for lost library cards, and to authorize an increase in the meeting room rental fees charged to for-profit groups. The new rate for Roseville and White Bear Lake will be $50 per hour, and the new rate for Maplewood, Mounds View, and Shoreview will be $25 per hour. Norrgard seconded the motion, which was approved by majority vote, with Anderson dissenting.

INTERNET FILTERING:
The Ramsey County Library adopted its current Internet Access Policy in October 2002, and the policy has been reviewed and reaffirmed annually. In September 2003, the Library Board opted to forgo application for e-rate funding, in accordance with its decision against the use of filtering software. While filtering software has not been utilized, a variety of other steps have been taken to discourage patrons from viewing inappropriate images on library computers, including the use of privacy screens, and the parents’ ability to restrict access to the Internet for their minor children.

The Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) requires that libraries block visual depictions of materials that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors. Libraries that do not comply with the CIPA legislation are not eligible for federal funding available via e-rate telecommunications reimbursements, or RLTA grant funding. State-wide, only Ramsey County Library uses no filtering software whatsoever, with Hennepin County utilizing filters only on computers located in the children’s areas.
Last fall, Library staff performed an assessment of Websense, popular filtering software used by many libraries and businesses. The results of this assessment were presented to the Library Board in November. At that meeting, the Board passed a motion requesting the Library Director to bring a policy recommendation and implementation plan regarding the use of filtering software back to the Library Board for action.

The Board discussed the specific language of the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), learning that all terminals, for both public and staff, must be filtered. Persons age 17 and up, including staff, have the legal right under CIPA to request that their terminals be unblocked. Nemitz indicated that although she is personally opposed to filtering, as the business manager for the Library, she recognizes the need for it. The financial losses resulting from the Library’s ineligibility for LSTA, e-rate, and other federal funding will continue to grow, and the potential liability of a staff lawsuit remains.

Nemitz stated that, if approved by the Library Board, the filtering software must be purchased and installed by June 30 in order for the Library to be compliant. Staff would need time to review other available software options, and an additional server would need to be purchased and configured. Wireless access would also be filtered. She pointed out that current filtering software is more effective and less expensive than earlier versions.

Norrgard noted that the filtering needs to be recognized as a form of censorship. Although he is opposed to censorship, he acknowledges the financial liability to the Library if filtering is not implemented. Kessel stated that the term censorship has different connotations for Internet use than for print materials, which are selected by staff and limited by the availability of funding.

Williams mentioned the lawsuit faced by Minneapolis Public Library, where several employees alleged a hostile workplace for its Internet policies. The suit was settled for $435,000. She noted that the Library Board needs to protect the public and staff, and was pleased to hear that the newest filtering software is much less staff intensive than previously available software.

Cox stated that she understands the use of filtering software for the reasons mentioned by the other Board members and Nemitz, but noted that she had concerns about its effectiveness on streaming video. Anderson questioned whether the application of filtering software to block pornographic images would be enough to reduce the Library’s liability from a staff lawsuit. Nemitz indicated that the software would be reviewed after a year of usage, and could be adjusted as necessary. Anderson was in favor of the filtering software, stating that the financial risk from a staff lawsuit was too great to overlook.

Comments were taken from members of the public who were present. One person stated that patrons may be too embarrassed to ask for the filters to be removed. Another shared a story of visiting the Library with his teenage daughter, and observing a man viewing porn on the Internet. A third noted that he did not realize the Library wasn’t filtering, and was in favor of implementing filtering software.

Williams made a motion to approve the use of Internet filtering software, to be implemented by June 30, 2006, and contingent upon approval of an official policy and procedures prior to the June 30 implementation date. Anderson seconded the motion, and proposed a friendly amendment that the revised policy and procedures be reviewed by the Ramsey County Attorney’s Office before coming back to the Library Board for approval. Williams accepted the friendly amendment. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the Library Board.

**MAPLEWOOD UPDATE:**
Nemitz reported that Property Management staff is still working hard to finalize the purchase agreement for the sale of the current library facility in Maplewood. The buyer is in the process of negotiating a shared parking agreement with the adjacent landowner.

The budgets for construction and for furniture, fixtures and equipment are still on track. Bidding packages will be issued in April in two phases. Add and deduct alternates will be presented for Library Board consideration at the May meeting. The groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for April 5 at 10 a.m.
NW AREA LIBRARY ACCESS TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS—NEXT STEPS:
Nemitz created a capital planning calendar for the Library Board to address the issues raised by the Northwest Area Library Access Task Force. Anderson suggested that members of the Library Board and Nemitz meet with the County Board before January to get the commissioners’ input on the direction to be taken. Due to the volume of issues to be discussed by the end of the year, the Library Board agreed to begin its meetings at 6:30 beginning with the May meeting.

The Board discussed various ways to obtain public input. Open meetings and suggestions boxes in the libraries were two methods suggested by the Library Board.

LIAISON AND LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENTS:
Norrgard made a motion to postpone this discussion until the next meeting, when all Board members should be present. Cox seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:
Nemitz reported that the Library has received a search warrant for a library patron, not related to the Patriot Act. The paperwork is currently being reviewed by the County Attorney’s Office.

She also noted the Property Management is currently in the process of negotiating the lease with Café Cravings for space in the new library in Maplewood. Cravings would like permission to use the Library’s meeting room for special events, and would also like the ability to serve alcohol. Nemitz noted that the lease with Cravings will include a percentage of profits, giving the Library incentive to help the café succeed. Kessel suggested that alcohol could be limited to times when the Library is not open, while Anderson suggested that if permission is given, the lease should include language permitting this permission to be revoked at a later date if problems arise. Nemitz noted that alcohol could be limited to special events, with exceptions to be approved by the Library.

Transtop Minnesota has rescinded its request to place a bus shelter at the corner of Hamline Avenue and County Road B.

Nemitz will be attending the Public Library Association conference in Boston, and thanked the Board for her professional development funds. Sandy Walsh, Karen Boettcher, and Meg Robertson from the Library staff will also be attending the conference.

MELSA REPORT:
Commissioner Parker reported that a joint meeting of the Governing Board and the Advisory Board was held earlier in the day on the issue of revising the reimbursement formula. No decision was made. March 30 will be Library Legislative Day, the annual opportunity for library staff and supporters to meet with state legislators and discuss library issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Max Joiner of North St. Paul shared his opinions on several library-related subjects: he is against coffee shops in libraries; the library in North St. Paul needs a book drop accessible 24 hour a day; the Library Board is unwisely engaging in short term thinking; the community needs more meeting rooms; and all Library Board documents should be available online, not just the agendas and minutes.

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:55 p.m.

Next meeting: April 19, 2006, RCL – Arden Hills, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Larson
Library Board Coordinator