Minutes of the Ramsey County Library Board
June 17, 2015

LIBRARY BOARD PRESENT:
John Hakes, Craig Klausing, Paula Mielke, Jan Rapheal, Kim Vanderwall

LIBRARY BOARD ABSENT:
Jim Berry, Tou Xiong

STAFF PRESENT:
Susan Nemitz, Library Director; Mary Larson, Library Board Coordinator; Lynn Wyman, Deputy Director; Jeff Eide, Policy & Planning Manager; Bill Michel, Facilities Planning Manager; Julie Neville, Property Manager; Kristi Saksvig, Communications Manager; Chuck Wettergren, Automation Services Manager

OTHERS PRESENT:
Mary Jo McGuire, Ramsey County Commissioner; Abdul Diriye, New Brighton resident

CALL TO ORDER:
Vanderwall called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. in the Community Program Room of the Ramsey County Library in Roseville, 2180 Hamline Avenue North.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES:
Hakes made a motion to approve the agenda for June 17, 2015 and the minutes of May 20, 2015 as presented. Klausing seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous vote.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:
Over 1,500 patrons flocked to the library in Roseville on June 6 to participate in the annual Summer Festival which helps kickoff the Summer Reading Program. The theme for the children’s event was “A Festival of Nations.” Patrons were able to participate in an Around the World scavenger hunt and experience performances reflecting cultures from around the world.

Knutson Construction continues to work on the reading patio at the library in White Bear Lake, with the intention of having it essentially complete for Manitou Days on June 18. Eighty-two engraved pavers have been shipped from Florida, and should arrive soon. Once they arrive, they will replace the blank ones within the paver plaza.

On May 18, the White Bear Lake Planning Commission approved the Library’s request for a variance for the monument sign to place it closer to the property line than the City’s Sign Code allows. The City Council discussed the request at their meeting on June 9, and decided after much discussion to table the request until their June 23 meeting. This postponement necessitated a 45 day extension of the city’s review period, which will expire on July 24.

The library in White Bear Lake continues to be a busy place—circulation and visits in May were both up more than 15 percent over May of last year.

The design process for the new library in Shoreview has begun. The County Board approved the Phase 1 contract with Adolfson & Peterson Construction/HGA Architects on May 26. A kick-off meeting was held on June 4, and meetings will be held weekly through the summer. The schematic design phase is scheduled to be completed by July 16, and design development finished and guaranteed maximum price (GMP) established by the end of September for a mid-October ground-breaking.
The Library has scheduled a community meeting at the Shoreview Community Center for July 14 to give an update on the project and ask for community input. A&P/HGA will give a presentation to the Library Board on July 15, and will present again on September 19, when the Board will be asked to approve the GMP and the Phase 2 agreement with A&P/HGA.

A portion of the teen space at the library in Maplewood is being transformed as a makerspace. Furniture and equipment have begun to arrive.

Pat Conley, Director of the Washington County Library, has retired. Washington County has selected Keith Ryskoski, a school district administrator, to replace her.

The MELSA Trustees voted last month to add $285,000 to the collaborative e-book program. They vote later this month to provide Ramsey County Library $100,000 in Phase Funding to replace the 140 public computing workstations at Roseville.

The Legacy Bill was not passed in the closing hours of the legislative sessions. Rumor has it that Minnesota Library allocations will be reduced by 20-30 percent.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Abdul Diiriye, a New Brighton resident, shared his concerns regarding the lack of programming for autistic children at the Library. He requested daily access to quiet study rooms or program spaces for his visits to RCL with his children.

Nemitz will discuss the issue with Library staff.

NEXT MEETING: July 15, 2015 – RCL Shoreview, 4570 North Victoria Street, 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:
Klausing made a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Mielke seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Larson
Library Board Coordinator
Strategic Planning Notes

Library Usage and Emerging Trends

- Role of library of being a connector. (5 votes)
- What is our core mission—a lot we could do—should we? Can’t be too many things to too many people. (4 votes)
- Prospect of creating spaces that draw teens in new ways; gathering, collaborative. (3 votes)
- Having staff & board that reflect changing demographics. (3 votes)
- How do you appeal to young users and older users both? (2 votes)
- Collaboration—learning, spaces, etc. (2 votes)
- Taking what we do & branding it. (2 votes)
- Specialized libraries—silent, kids, expanded hours at one? (2 votes)
- Address perception that we are dying. (1 vote)
- Life issue-based programs? (1 vote)
- Be a center for life research—resource place. (1 vote)
- Don’t yet have programs for emerging adults & regular adults. (1 vote)
- Arts—not linear (Northern Sparks)
- Importance of being on top of trends. Knowing which ones to jump on; fluid enough to react fast.
- Different demographics.
- Space & meeting room usage—charge in some cases. Explore what people are looking for—decide.
- Digital natives—what will little ones need?
- Older population—what will they need?
- Are there things we should also do outside our facilities?

Economic Prosperity & Racial Equity

- Student achievement—Ramsey County students lagging. (6 votes)
- Ramsey County relies on libraries to help with economic prosperity. (6 votes)
- Bringing access to people who don’t have access? (6 votes)
- Family—how do we serve a multi-generation—make that vibrant again? (5 votes)
- How aggressively should we get our name & programs marketed? (3 votes)
- “Connector” (3 votes)
- How do we move people on the racial equity continuum? (2 votes)
- Is there anywhere else that sees more 0-4 year olds? (2 votes)
- Really good programming for preschool, school-age. Not for families. (2 votes)
- How do we go deeper? Not just scratch the surface. (1 vote)
- Third grade reading an indication of prison population.
- Library preschool programming—what demographic are we serving?
- Economic data needed—not including St. Paul.
- How does the mix of services change as population changes?
- Large areas of poverty—what does that mean for our community?
- No one can address this alone.
- Role of the Library in helping people find jobs.
- Space & cyberspace.
- What comes after the master plan?
Takeaways

- Great to see all the energy—excitement about being better & serving the community.
- Good to get more suburban Ramsey County data.
- A lot of opportunity to be a true partner.
- Might not be as many materials in the future (handling systems)—staff good at looking for trends.
- Translate this into concrete steps!
- Nice to focus on things other than buildings.
- County has upped their game—now we can too. We can rise to the challenge.
- New big thoughts—exciting.
- Positive tone, big picture, ready to meet the challenges.
- How do we fit?
- Looking at reaching deeper at who we serve—underserved.
- Exciting to be this focused.