

Minutes of the Ramsey County Library Board January 17, 2018

LIBRARY BOARD PRESENT:

Marisol Chiclana-Ayala, John Hakes, Craig Klausing, Paula Mielke

STAFF PRESENT:

Jill Boldenow, Library Director; Mary Larson, Library Board Coordinator; Lynn Wyman, Deputy Director; Jeff Eide, Senior Library Manager; Lee Ann Lause, Personnel Transactions Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ray Ruthenberg, Les Siphkema, Shoreview Residents

CALL TO ORDER:

Klausing called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Program Room of the Ramsey County Library in Shoreview, 4560 North Victoria Street.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Les Siphkema, Shoreview resident, spoke about the Shoreview retention pond and warranty; Board member nametags; the upcoming renovation, noise and parking concerns at Maplewood; and cloud-hosted services.

Ray Ruthenberg, Shoreview resident, spoke about space for community information at Shoreview.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES:

Chiclana-Ayala made a motion to approve the agenda for January 17, 2018 and the minutes of December 13, 2017 as presented. Hakes seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous vote.

For future meetings, Klausing suggested that the agenda be approved separately from the consent agenda.

ANNUAL GIFT ACCEPTANCE:

Each year, the Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries give a gift to the Library for a variety of program needs identified by Library staff. For 2018, the Library requested \$70,000 for programming, technology literacy, the volunteer program, and staff development. The Friends' Board approved the request.

Chiclana-Ayala made a motion to accept the annual gift of \$70,000 from the Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries for 2018 program and service needs identified by the Library. Hakes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Important Dates: Board members are encouraged to stop by the Kindergarten Card party on January 20, at Shoreview Library from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The Friends sponsor this fun event, which caps off months of effort by Children's Librarians to engage kindergarteners throughout suburban Ramsey County. Author Kate DiCamillo will present at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Kids will go on a scavenger hunt before receiving a new library card. County Commissioners will join us to greet parents and kids.

The Library welcomes four acclaimed writers for a Hmong Women Writers Panel on February 6, at 6:00 p.m. at Maplewood Library. Katie Ka Vang facilitates a discussion with Kao Kalia Yang, Mai Neng Moua, and May Lee-Yang.

All Ramsey County Libraries will be closed on February 19.

Tickets are now on sale for the Friends Gala on February 24 at Roseville Library. The theme is "A Whale of a Tale!" Costumes are not required, but we are encouraged to dress as a character from a book set in, on, or around water. Last year's gala raised \$30,000 for the Library's collections.

Library: All Ramsey County Library staff have new email addresses. In most cases, the format is: firstname.lastname@co.ramsey.mn.us. In some cases, middle initials are also used.

The Library hosted another successful History Day Hullabaloo! We hosted 203 students representing 36 schools at this annual event on January 6 at Roseville. Students worked with history mentors and learned from Library staff about resources to support their projects on the theme "Conflict and Compromise in History."

Librarian Charles Mosner has developed monthly programs for entrepreneurs, small business owners, and job seekers. In partnership with St. Paul SCORE, the Library presents Guerilla Marketing 101 on January 10 and Business CPR on February 14. In partnership with Idea2Launch, we will present Speed Networking on January 18 and a workshop on creating great social media graphics with Canva on February 15. Charles is also developing events with recruiters from Target, Andersen Corporation, and others at the Library.

Ramsey County: The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners elected Commissioner McDonough to serve as Chair and Commissioner Reinhardt to serve as Vice-Chair in 2018. The County Board appointed Commissioner McGuire to serve as the Ramsey County Library Board of Trustees Liaison (with Commissioner Rettman as alternate). The County Board also appointed Commissioner Rettman to serve on the Metropolitan Library Services Agency (MELSA) Board of Trustees.

FRIENDS OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY LIBRARIES REPORT:

Kindergarten Library Card Sign-up Celebration: This popular community event is scheduled for Saturday, January 20, 2018 at the Ramsey County Library in Shoreview. The purpose is to encourage kindergarten students to obtain a library card and to celebrate this important milestone in their lives.

In January 2017, over 1,000 parents and young children participated in the Celebration event, and attendance is expected to be high again in 2018. **The Friends are grateful to Mounds Park Academy, Metro State University and Northeast Bank for their generous sponsorship of this event.**

2018 Friends Gala, A Whale of a Tale! Make a real splash when you attend the fifth annual Friends Gala, "A Whale of a Tale!" All proceeds go to Ramsey County Library's collection budget to replace well-worn favorites and bring in popular new releases. This year's gala auctions will feature many perennial favorites, as well as some exciting new items. Guests can enjoy contributing to a good cause as they try to win "Cocktails with Kent," a family membership to the prestigious University Club of St. Paul, overnight stays at deluxe local hotels, theater tickets, a brand new kayak, and much, much more! The Friends are grateful for the following community support for this event:

Exclusive Media Sponsor: Pioneer Press

Platinum: Metro State University and Walser Corporation/Foundation

Gold: Andersen Corporation, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Carl Bolander and Sons, Falcon Heights/Lauderdale Lions Club, Health Partners, Northeast Bank, Mary and Wayne Carter, Cathy Croghan and Kathy Robbins, Dick and Mary Fowler, Frank Harris, John W. Harris, Pam Harris

Silver: Community Resource Bank, Josh's Place

Beverage Sponsor: Fair State Brewing Coop 2

Book It 5K Walk/Run: All runners, walkers, strollers, volunteers, and library lovers are invited to the ninth annual Book It! 5K Walk/Run at 9:00am on Saturday, May 19, at the Roseville Library. Proceeds support the Summer Reading Program for children and teens at all Ramsey County Library locations.

2018 “PopUp” Used Book Sale: Back by popular demand...the Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries is hosting a used Book Sale at the Ramsey County Library in Shoreview, 4560 North Victoria Street. Thousands of books, DVDs, and CDs from all seven Ramsey County Library branches, as well as private donations, will be sold. The Friends raised more than \$75,000 through used book sales in 2017 through the Maplewood, Roseville and Shoreview bookstores, the Mounds View and White Bear Lake book carts, and the PopUp book sale at Shoreview. Books were also provided to dozens of community organizations and schools, including the Ramsey County book cart at Union Depot.

Author Luncheon: Mark your calendars for the Friends’ Author Luncheon to be held Saturday, November 3, 2018, at the North Oaks Country Club. The featured speaker this year is award-winning author and executive director of *Dream of Wild Health*, Diane Wilson. Diane’s first book, "Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past," retraces her family's Dakota heritage across five generations and won a 2006 Minnesota Book Award. Her second book, "Beloved Child: A Dakota Way of Life," explores the work of several modern Dakota people who are following the long tradition of raising beloved children and tapping into the “genius and brilliance” of Dakota culture as a way of surviving historical trauma. Diane also contributed to the 2016 anthology, "A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota." In this highly praised book, sixteen of Minnesota’s best writers provide a range of perspectives on what it is like to live as a person of color in Minnesota.

Shoreview Capital Campaign: The Friends wrapped up 2017 with \$234,378 in donations/pledges and \$6,413 in-kind—just shy of the goal of \$250,000 for the Shoreview Capital Campaign. Final installations of donor and artist plaques are in process along with final calculations for campaign expenses. Plans are underway for a donor reception to celebrate the many new amenities made possible by the outpouring of community support for the Shoreview Library.

New additions to the library include:

- A long awaited sign for the Friends Bookstore was installed and bookstore volunteers are over the moon!
- A fabulous collage by St. Paul artist, Kristi Abbott—“The place we can go...” went up in the library entry. This piece features highlights from the region, authors, and a mystery library staff member—come visit to see!
- Three adorable watercolors by local artist Amy Clark were installed in the *Eilenne Boder Comfort Room*, creating a warm and welcoming space for children and families.

Upcoming Events:

- **Kindergarten Library Card Sign-Up Celebration** on Saturday, January 20, 2018 with author extraordinaire Kate DiCamillo at the Roseville Branch
- **Friends Board of Directors** meeting on January 22, 2018 at the Roseville Branch
- **Friends Annual Gala: *Whale of a Tale!*** on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at the Roseville Branch
- **Book It 5K** on Saturday, May 19, 2018 at the Roseville Branch
- **“POP-UP” Used Book Sale**, September 25-29, 2018 at the Shoreview Branch
- **Friends Author Luncheon**, November 3, 2018 at North Oaks Golf Club

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE RETIREMENT OF LEE ANN LAUSE:

Mielke made a motion to approve the Resolution Regarding the Retirement of Lee Ann Lause, and to authorize the Library Board Chair to sign the document. Chiclana-Ayala seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous vote. The resolution honoring her 39 years of service was presented to Ms. Lause at the meeting.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR:

The Library Board’s Vice Chair position became vacant as of January 1, 2018. The Library Board By-laws call for vacancies in office to be filled by majority vote at the next regular meeting of the Board after the vacancy occurs.

At the January meeting, the Board will elect a Vice Chair to hold the position until the Library Board's 2018 annual meeting—at which all officer positions will be voted upon. Library staff anticipates holding the annual meeting in February or March, after the vacant Library Board member seats are filled. Staff is in the process of scheduling interviews with Library Board member applicants.

Klausing nominated Mielke and moved her election as Vice Chair of the Library Board until the 2018 election of officers takes place. Chiclana-Ayala seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

2018 MEETING SCHEDULE:

The Ramsey County Library Board currently meets at 6:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at locations throughout the library system. Additional meetings may be scheduled on the first Wednesday of a month or any other date as necessary.

The Board members discussed the February meeting date and quorum issues. Depending on whether the new Board members are appointed in time for the February 21 date, the meeting may be rescheduled to ensure a quorum is present.

Hakes made a motion to approve the 2018 Annual Schedule of Library Board Meetings as presented. Mielke seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

LIBRARY BOARD BY-LAWS AND POLICIES:

The Library Board postponed the annual review and approval of the by-laws and policies until after the new Board members are appointed.

CAFÉINE THAI CAFÉ UPDATE:

Sanook, LLC, the leaseholder of Caféine Thai Café at Maplewood Library, has not paid rent for November 2017, December 2017, or January 2018. The Library proposed a late payment schedule and terms, but those terms were not met.

On January 1, 2018, Sanook, LLC notified the Library that they do not plan to reopen the café. The current lease is in effect through January 31, 2020. Library staff is working with the Ramsey County Attorney's Office to officially terminate the lease.

With pre-design planning underway for renovating the Ramsey County Library in Maplewood, staff will keep options for the space fluid until more is known. Boldenow will work with Ramsey County to discuss options for the space.

INTERNET FILTER DISABLING:

In December 2017, the Library Board approved a revised Internet Access policy. As per the policy, the Library filters internet resources in order to block obscene content. As provided by law, any Library patron who is 17 years or older may request that filtering software at a Library workstation be temporarily disabled.

The Library previously utilized privacy screens on computer monitors, but found that their use emboldened patrons who visited questionable websites, did not fully block views from passers-by, and discouraged groups sharing a computer by compromising visibility. The Library Board was satisfied with the current practices.

RACIAL EQUITY UPDATE:

The work of advancing racial equity is woven throughout Ramsey County Library, in the work of individual staff members and teams, including:

- Staff produce programming for adults, teens, and children with a racial equity focus in content and audience engagement. Legacy funding and Friends grant funding were used in 2017 to organize several racial equity themed programs and exhibits. History programs featured several scholars of color and program topics exploring race, ethnicity, and culture.
- The Library’s selectors continually work to develop a racially diverse collection. In 2017, approximately 20% of new purchases were by or about people of color.
- Staff piloted the Popup Library in 2017, engaging the Hmong community at the Tuj Lub Courts opening at Keller Park, working with English Language Learners at the Fairview Community Center, and serving individuals at a residential re-entry center.
- The Library continues to expand ConnectEd, its school outreach program to deliver Library cards to all students. This program is an important effort to ensure equitable access to Library resources for all suburban youth.
- The Library Use policy was updated this year, adding language to prohibit harassment of Library staff or patrons on the basis of race or other criteria. Staff training on implementation of this policy was presented at In-Service Day.
- Staff met racial equity training requirements, and the Library presented numerous learning opportunities.
- The January 1, 2017 Ramsey County Workforce Statistics report recognized the Library for significant diversity in new hires. Board members discussed the Library’s hiring practices with Deputy Director Lynn Wyman, who outlined some of the changes made.
- In 2017, the *All Are Welcome Here* campaign was present in all libraries for several months. Librarians also presented passive programs and displays that celebrated diverse races, cultures, and languages.

In 2018, staff will continue to promote racial equity and inclusion through all operational areas of the Library and will expand to address broader inclusion goals. For example, the Library will pursue training to address language barriers, differing abilities, and cross-cultural needs.

Staff will continue to address racial equity and inclusion in programming. The Library will host new installments of the “Ask” series and present “Becoming American,” a documentary and discussion series, and will also host at least two Naturalization ceremonies.

2018 STAFF WORK PLAN:

The Library Board reviewed the 2018 staff work plan, which outlines the initiatives that support the Library’s strategic priorities. Staff will provide quarterly progress reports on the work plan to the Library Board.

NET NEUTRALITY/GOVERNMENT RELATIONS:

At the December 2017 Library Board meeting, board members expressed interest in the subject of net neutrality. Boldenow shared information on this issue and its importance to public libraries, which need unfettered access to information. Representative Betty McCollum is working on legislation to repeal the current law in order to prevent any restriction on information available on the internet.

Boldenow noted that the Minnesota Library Association (MLA) is still developing its platform for 2018. MLA Legislative Day will be held on March 6 at the State Capitol. Library Board members are welcome to attend with Boldenow.

NEXT MEETING: February 21, 2018—RCL Mounds View, 2576 Mounds View Boulevard, 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Klausing adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Larson
Library Board Coordinator