

Minutes of the Ramsey County Library Board November 15, 2017

LIBRARY BOARD PRESENT:

Marisol Chiclana-Ayala, John Hakes, Craig Klausing, Paula Mielke, Janice Rapheal, Kim Vanderwall

STAFF PRESENT:

Jill Boldenow, Library Director; Lynn Wyman, Deputy Director; Mary Larson, Library Board Coordinator; Jeff Eide, Senior Library Manager; Carrie Watts, Library Manager; Chuck Wettergren, Digital Services Manager; Marcus Lowry, Teen Services Coordinator; Amy Boese, Teen Librarian

OTHERS PRESENT:

Les Sipkema, Shoreview Resident; Bryan Olson, Falcon Heights Resident

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 Roseville, 2180 Hamline Avenue North.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Les Sipkema, Shoreview resident, spoke about noise at Maplewood, technology concerns, and the retention pond and naming rights at the new Ramsey County Library in Shoreview.

Bryan Olson, Falcon Heights resident, shared his concerns about Legacy-funded programs, programs recorded by the local cable station, recording of public taxation hearings, and the Library's noise policy.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES:

Vanderwall made a motion to approve the agenda for November 15, 2017 and the minutes of October 18, 2017, as presented. Chiclana-Ayala seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE RETIREMENT OF PAULA HARRIS:

Vanderwall made a motion to approve the Resolution Regarding the Retirement of Paula Harris, and to authorize the Library Board Chair to sign the document. Chiclana-Ayala seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

REVISED NAMING RIGHTS AGREEMENT:

Eilenne Boder was a Ramsey County librarian for 33 years. At the time of her death in April 2015, she was serving as Branch Manager of the Ramsey County Library in Shoreview and helped develop the preliminary plans for the new library. Memorials from Eilenne's family, friends, colleagues and neighbors totaled the \$5,000 needed for naming rights for a small study room in the new library in Shoreview. Naming rights were subsequently granted to Eilenne's son, Chris Boder, by the Library Board in January 2017.

In total, naming rights were granted to four groups for four available study rooms identified in the original library plans. However, in the final library construction, there are now three study rooms and one comfort room. Chris Boder agrees that the Comfort Room would be an appropriate room to designate in memory of Eilenne Boder.

If approved by the Library Board, one of the small study rooms that opens into the Children's Area will be named as follows:

***Comfort Room in Memory of Eilenne Boder
For her 33 years of dedicated service as a Ramsey County librarian
and Shoreview Branch Manager***

Vanderwall made a motion to revise the naming rights agreement with Chris Boder for a small Study Room in the Ramsey County Library in Shoreview in memory of Eilenne Boder to the Comfort Room in memory of Eilenne Boder, and to authorize the Library Board Chair to sign the agreement. Chiclana-Ayala seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous vote.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Important Dates:

November 23—All Ramsey County Libraries closed

November 24—Library Administration and Technical Services closed

November 27—Ramsey County Board of Commissioners budget hearing, Shoreview Library at 6:30 pm

December 24 & 25—All Ramsey County Libraries closed

January 1, 2018—All Ramsey County Libraries closed

Voting at libraries:

Residents took advantage of early voting opportunities at White Bear Lake and Shoreview libraries from October 31 through November 6. Shoreview Library was, by far, the busiest early voting site in Ramsey County, with 2,110 people casting votes; 275 people voted at White Bear Lake Library. Maplewood Library had eight people on Election Day voting for school board seats and an operating levy renewal for White Bear Lake Area Schools.

Grants received:

Ramsey County Library will expand Pop-Up Library sites and services in 2018 thanks to a \$40,846 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant administered by State Library Services at the Minnesota Department of Education. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provides LSTA funds to Minnesota through the Grants to States Program. The Pop-Up Library goals are to address inequities and barriers, build community relationships, and expand lifelong learning for new patrons.

Ramsey County Library received a grant of \$600 from the Greater White Bear Lake Community Foundation to support *Park Rx Kits* at White Bear Lake Library. Library Manager Therese Sonnek obtained free Minnesota State Park passes through a partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. With the grant, Therese will augment the passes with related books, maps, and materials to promote healthy outdoor activities. The items, packaged in kits, will circulate from White Bear Lake Library beginning in December.

Confronting racism programs:

The Library and Do Good Roseville hosted *Confronting Racism Minnesota Style* on November 2, with 180 engaged attendees. Alicia Sojourner of YWCA Minneapolis led this workshop, which provides tools to respond to implicit and explicit racism. Maplewood Library hosts *Confronting Racism Minnesota Style: for Youth*, on December 7, at 7:00 p.m.

Mounds View Library welcomes Marcus Lowry as branch manager:

Marcus Lowry begins working as Mounds View Library Manager on November 20. (Mounds View's former library manager recently relocated overseas.) Marcus has been a leader in teen services at Ramsey County Library and in the larger library community. He is excited to deepen relationships with the Mounds View community and Library staff.

MELSA launches MN Writes MN Reads:

Ramsey County Library and all MELSA member libraries have launched *MN Writes MN Reads* for our patrons. This suite of free online tools enables local authors—from indie to mainstream—to create ebooks and share them with readers across the state and potentially across the country. This project is supported by MELSA with funding from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. We anticipate that libraries statewide will offer and promote this platform to build a strong Minnesota collection. Learn more at www.rclreads.org/mnwrites.

FRIENDS OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY LIBRARIES REPORT:

The following businesses, organizations, and individuals helped fund the Summer Reading Program for children and teens at all the Ramsey County Library branches by sponsoring the 8th Annual Book It 5K Walk/Run that took place on September 16, 2017:

Gold Sponsors

- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota
- The Aplikowski Family

Silver Sponsors

- Falcon Heights/Lauderdale Lions Club
- Jaci Meyer Agency, State Farm
- Richard and Mary Fowler

Bronze Sponsors

- Maguire Agency
- Kim Bennet Agency, American Family Insurance
- Frank Harris
- John W. Harris
- Pam Harris

Annual Author Luncheon:

More than 125 people attended the Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries annual Author Luncheon held at the North Oaks Golf Club on Saturday, October 14, 2017. The program featured celebrated mystery writer Erin Hart and her husband, Irish musician and author Paddy O'Brien sharing stories about the archeological discoveries and life experiences that have inspired the authors' books, *The Road from Castlebarnagh* and *The Book of Killowen*. People and places from the past came alive through projected images while Paddy regaled guests with his childhood tales of rural Ireland and Erin spun the story of her latest mystery novel inspired by a true discovery, a 9th-century book of Psalms preserved in an Irish bog. The event kicked off with a social hour while *Paddy played button accordion tunes* and the authors stayed after the program to chat with guests and sign books. We are grateful to our sponsors for this event, Mary and Dick Fowler.

Pop Up Used Book Sale:

The Pop Up Used Book Sale held from October 26-28, 2017 at the Shoreview Branch was well attended and netted close to \$3,500. The Friends are grateful to Carol Jackson, Shoreview Branch Manager, and all of the staff at the Shoreview Branch for accepting the tremendous influx of book donations with grace and working to find storage for all of the materials prior to the sale. The Friends also want to thank Jan Huberty for her leadership of a team of more than 35 sale volunteers; Nancy Huberty for volunteer scheduling, Donna Andreas for managing the sale proceeds; Shoreview used bookstore volunteers Mary Ann Adams, Ann Ingle, and Peggy Biernat for taking on the extra work of the sale, and Friends Office Manager, Shayne Miller, for handling everything with grace and a smile. In addition, the Friends want to express deep appreciation to the many library patrons and Friends members who dropped off their used book donations to the Shoreview library for the sale.

Shoreview Library Capital Campaign Nearing Completion:

The Shoreview Branch received delivery of a fascinating mixed media collage piece commissioned from Saint Paul artist, Kristi Abbott, which will be installed very soon in the entry to the library. The Art Committee is currently reviewing delightful animal-themed watercolor selections by local artist Amy Clark for installation in the Comfort Room.

Reading Friends:

A wonderful team of 13 volunteers began their service as *Reading Friends* for the 2017-2018 school year on September 28, 2017. These volunteers spend one-to-one time with children after school at the partner site in New Brighton, Community Partners with Youth, to reinforce literacy skills, assist with homework assignments, and help build children's self-esteem. The lives of many children are enriched every year because of the dedicated and generous *Reading Friends*.

Kindergarten Card Party Sponsors:

Mound Park Academy and Northeast Bank are back on board as sponsors for the 2018 event!

Upcoming Events:

- **Friends Board of Directors** meeting on November 20, 2017 at the Roseville Branch
- **Kindergarten Library Card Sign-Up Celebration** on Saturday, January 20, 2018 with author extraordinaire Kate DiCamillo 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

TEEN SERVICES UPDATE:

Current teen services coordinator Marcus Lowry and incoming coordinator Amy Boese were present at the meeting to update the Library Board on teen services at Ramsey County Library. They thanked the Library Board for their support, specifically the addition of a new teen librarian at Shoreview. Lowry noted that he was the only staff member working in teen services when he began at RCL in 2008, and now there are three full-time librarians and 3 AmeriCorps CTEP workers assigned to teen services.

Ramsey County Library Teen Services strives to create connected learning experiences for young adults in the community. As a community “third space” beyond school and home, libraries provide a safe, welcoming, environment where teens can explore areas of interest and develop a sense of ownership of their surroundings. RCL has a particular interest in outreach and collaboration with groups that serve diverse, new immigrant, and low income teens.

Highlights of the past year collaborations include:

- Expanded teen services team with the addition of Paige Fuller as a teen services librarian for Shoreview.
- Showcased Shoreview’s new Teen Space at the library’s grand opening. Five local robotics teams provided three demonstrations for over 200 visitors.
- Collaborated with the White Bear YMCA, Maplewood Community Center, RC Public Works, RC Parks and Recreation, Goodwill/Easter Seals, and the Science Museum of MN to offer a teen job fair at Maplewood.
- Instructed formal technology classes throughout the year across the system, including 3D printing, vector editing, music mixing, and digital literacy skills.
- Facilitated 133 weekly drop in classes for experimentation and hands-on play, creating and making with over 1,200 teens at the Brain Box.
- Built library connections with older teens in alternative school programs in North St. Paul/Maplewood, providing monthly digital literacy skills training to the Phoenix Recovery High School, the Harmony Learning Center work-based learning program, and special education.
- Hosted YA and SF author Nnedi Okorafor at Roseville as part of MELSA Club Book series.
- Partnered with Heritage Academy, a Somali school in Minneapolis, to teach library research skills.
- Hired three teen summer workers; one for Maplewood, Roseville, and Shoreview, who between them spoke seven languages.
- Brought Stella Binion, a national youth poetry winner to North St. Paul/Maplewood schools in partnership with the MN Department of Education and the Equity office of ISD 622.
- Continued a bi-monthly after-hours teen program for Maplewood in partnership with the Human Rights Commission of Maplewood and youth advocates.
- Provided six week-long, half-day teen camps instructing on topics of STEAM, film making, and empowering girls in technology fields.
- Piloted a partnership with MN Department of Education to provide free lunch and snacks for youth four days a week over the summer at Maplewood, serving 1,300 meals and snacks.

- Partnered with the MN Astronomical Society to host a “Pre-Eclipse Party” at Shoreview, at which a presenter educated over 200 attendees about what to look for during the eclipse, and how to view the event safely.
- Completed Teen Summer Reading Program with 5,281 online book reviews created and 1,062 unique teens participating in the program with the highest participation in all of MELSA.

Amy Boese is the incoming Teen Services Coordinator and will be located at Roseville. Marcus Lowry will be the library manager of Mounds View. A new teen librarian will be hired for Maplewood.

FACILITIES PLANNING UPDATE:

Library staff continue to advance the Maplewood Library capital planning project. Three proposals to provide pre-design consulting services were received, and a firm has been selected. The Library hopes to have a contract in place by December, and the consultant will deliver a report within 60 days of the contract start date.

In this phase of the Maplewood project, the consultant will deliver:

- An analysis of known issues
- Pre-design options with cost estimates to solve major issues
- Recommendations on phasing a project, if necessary

Library staff will bring implementation recommendations to the Library Board in early 2018. Staff hopes to utilize remaining Shoreview project funds to support final design and implementation at Maplewood, though additional funds may be requested as needed.

Mielke spoke in favor of having play areas for children as well as spaces for quiet study. Boldenow noted that preparations are underway to develop a system-wide facilities master plan in 2018.

POP UP LIBRARY OVERVIEW:

As part of the library’s community engagement goals, delivery of pop-up library service began in various locations throughout the community, led by Jeff Eide, Ramsey County Library’s community engagement coordinator.

The goal for this service is to reach into communities that the library has had a harder time reaching. These communities can include racial or ethnic groups, or groups or individuals for whom transportation may be a barrier to library services. For the most part, pop-ups have been held within the suburban Ramsey County service area. Some other local library systems, such as Hennepin County, have also been experimenting with pop-up library services.

As each venue is different and has different needs, precisely what the service looks like can vary somewhat from location to location. Generally, this service includes: computers for staff to register library cards or look up information, collections of library materials to be checked out, brochures to advertise library services – such as the Explore Newsletter or Summer Reading Program materials, and some sort of visual draw to the space – such as a 3D printer, a button-maker, or free giveaways.

Venues that were visited in 2017 include: Tuj Lub Court grand opening at Keller Park, Residential Reentry Center (for people transitioning from corrections), Fairview Community Education ESL/Adult Education, Ramsey County Fair, Farmer’s Markets in Shoreview and Maplewood, Maplewood Community Center, New Immigrants Welcome Event in Maplewood, and the Gladstone Learning Center.

The service will continue into 2018 with return visits to new venues as well as return visits to many of the locations where that have been successful.

Eide noted that staffing the pop-up events has been the most challenging aspect of the initiative. Commissioner McGuire thanked the Library for its outreach efforts, and suggested a shared vehicle for Countywide outreach services from various departments.

ROSEVILLE BRANCH UPDATE & TOUR:

Trends in the Service Area:

- Enrollment in Roseville Area School District is growing, with just over 7,500 students in K-12 grades.
- Student ethnicity: 48% white, 21% Asian, 17% Black, 13% Hispanic, 1% American Indian.
- 28% of students in the district have languages other than English spoken at home; Spanish, Karen and Hmong are the most prevalent.
- 46% of students in the district qualify for free or reduced price lunches.
- Roseville Police Department has increased their training in the areas of mental health awareness and de-escalation, and has begun an initiative to provide all sworn personnel crisis intervention training by 2018.
- The City of Roseville hosted a series of community conversations over the past year called *Imagine Roseville*, which developed in response to the Philando Castile shooting in Falcon Heights. The conversations were an effort to help people voice concerns and make connections in light of changing demographics.
- The multi-million dollar re-investment in Rosedale Shopping Center continues, with the upscale department store, Von Maur, coming in 2018.

Library Issues and Service Trends:

- Circulation was down 5.7% last year.
- Visits to the library increased by 2%.
- Attendance at programming increased by over 23% in just one year.

Library Board members toured the facility, including the children and teen areas, the reading garden, the circulation workroom, and the Digital Services Department. The upcoming facility master plan will be an opportunity to replace worn furnishings, and address any needed service improvements.

NEXT MEETING: December 13, 2017—RCL Shoreview, 4560 North Victoria Street, 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Klausing adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Larson
Library Board Coordinator