
Minutes of the Ramsey County Library Board September 19, 2018

LIBRARY BOARD PRESENT:

Deb Berry, John Hakes, Craig Klausing, Sida Ly-Xiong, Paula Mielke

LIBRARY BOARD ABSENT:

Marisol Chiclana-Ayala, Sylvia Neblett

STAFF PRESENT:

Jill Boldenow, Library Director; Lynn Wyman, Deputy Director; Mary Larson, Library Board Coordinator; Jeff Eide, Senior Library Manager; Heidi Holland, Volunteer Services Librarian; Chuck Wettergren, Digital Services Manager; Meg Robertson, New Brighton Library Manager

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mary Jo McGuire, Ramsey County Commissioner; Johanna Berg, Deputy County Manager; Cyndi Cook, Valerie Wise, Friends of the Ramsey County Library; Kim Vanderwall, Vanderwall Consulting; Les Sipkema, Shoreview Resident

CALL TO ORDER:

Klausing called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Ramsey County Library in New Brighton, 400 – 10th Street N.W.

NEW BRIGHTON BRANCH TOUR & UPDATE:

Meg Robertson, New Brighton Library Manager, gave the Library Board a brief overview of the recent updates to the branch including new carpet and new countertops. The facility opened in 2011 in the New Brighton Community Center, a partnership that has worked well for both agencies. Other highlights from Robertson's report to the Library Board include:

Trends in the Service Area

- ACS statistics from the Metropolitan Council's Community Profiles show New Brighton demographics with a racial breakdown of approximately 76% white residents and 24% residents of color. Eleven percent of New Brighton residents live below the federal poverty level. The library and community center continue to see use by racially diverse residents and community members of all ages and incomes.
- New Brighton will implement its water transition from Minneapolis city water back to its own supply in the next 3 weeks, concluding a long process of insuring clean water for New Brighton residents.
- The New Brighton Community Center (NBCC) hosted absentee and early voting throughout the 2018 primaries and continues to be a regular voting site.
- The Ralph Reeder Food Shelf moved from the Pike Lake Education Center in New Brighton to the Silver View Plaza strip mall in Mounds View.
- LEGO and Robotics teams reach all grade levels in the Mounds View School District and more than 500 students participated in these teams in the 2017-2018 school year.
- Irondale High School in New Brighton graduated 19 students with an associate of arts degree from Anoka-Ramsey Community College in addition to their high school degree.

Library Issues and Service Trends

- RCL—NB has increased service opportunities with additional librarian hours and is now offering more regular programming.

- The NBCC and RCL—NB partnership is growing. With the library able to meet many of the expressed community needs, the NBCC has expanded room access and promotion of library programs. For the first time, RCL—NB programs are listed in the Parks and Recreation Fall catalog.
- The new Eagle’s Nest attraction often results in overflow capacity being directed to the library—an opportunity for highlighting our services.
- RISE, an organization serving adults with disabilities and other challenges, is a new tenant in the NBCC and the library is looking forward to partnering to enhance services to their clients.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Les Sipkema, Shoreview resident, shared his thoughts on a variety of subjects including minority purchasing, the Shoreview Library grant, donated books, the acquisition process for rental books, meeting documents, consent agenda procedures, the strategic plan, technology in the library, and the Maplewood branch remodel.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

No changes were made to the agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mielke made a motion to approve the minutes of July 18, 2018 as presented. Hakes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE RETIREMENT OF LINDA MOY:

Clerk Typist Linda Moy has announced her retirement, effective September 28, 2018. A resolution honoring Linda for her 29 years of service was presented to Linda at her retirement party on September 19, her last day of work.

Mielke made a motion to approve the Resolution Regarding the Retirement of Linda Moy, and to ratify the Library Director’s signature on the document. Hakes seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous vote.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Important Dates – All libraries are closed October 22. The Friends Annual Author Talk and Luncheon with Diane Wilson is November 3.

2019 LSTA Grant Award – Congratulations to Librarian Jenny Jackson, who was awarded a grant of approximately \$17,300 to support digital storytelling! The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant is a federal program administered by the Minnesota Department of Education. The digital storytelling project will introduce adults to new technology, including digitization, filmmaking, and virtual reality. Patrons will learn to integrate technology into the traditional act of storytelling to create and share narratives and experiences. This grant will support new equipment and classes.

Memory Minders – Carol Jackson, Library Manager at RCL-Shoreview, published an article in *Public Libraries Online* on RCL’s memory minders project. Carol and partners at the Roseville Alzheimer’s and Dementia Community Action Team developed the idea for kits serving people with dementia and their caregivers. The Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries helped secure sponsors. The result is a set of Memory Minders—kits that circulate from libraries at Shoreview and Roseville. Kits contain activities for patrons with memory loss, books to spark memories, a CD, and a caregiver book and booklist. Congratulations to Carol for developing this innovative project and for receiving local and national exposure. Carol’s article is found here:

<http://publiclibrariesonline.org/2018/07/memory-minders-meaningful-engagement-for-those-impacted-by-dementia/>

2019 Supplementary Budget Process – Boldenow presented about the Library’s performance outcomes and strategic opportunities at the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners budget hearing on August 13. This year’s budget process is focused on performance and emerging strategies. Commissioners expressed great appreciation for the Library’s staff and initiatives that support County goals.

Civic Engagement – The Library supported the County initiative to increase voter participation by offering early voting at four libraries and primary day voting at two libraries. RCL- Roseville served 1,091 early voters; Shoreview served 715; Maplewood served 516; and White Bear Lake served 485. RCL-Maplewood served 407 primary day voters, and White Bear Lake served 938. We will also host voting in November for the general election.

Refurbishment Projects – At RCL-Roseville, a new rubber play pad and sails were installed in the children’s garden. More than 1/3 of Roseville’s study chairs have been reupholstered, and the carpeting at New Brighton was recently replaced. The Library in Mounds View will get a new roof in October.

FRIENDS OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY LIBRARIES REPORT:

Used Book Sale at the Ramsey County Library in Shoreview, September 26-29, 2018. Thousands of books, DVDs, and CDs from all seven Ramsey County Library branches, as well as private donations, will be sold. Most items sell for \$1 or less.

The Friends annual **Author Talk and Luncheon** will be held on Saturday, November 3rd at the North Oaks Country Club and features Diane Wilson, award winning author and Director of Dream of Wild Health, a nonprofit organization that seeks to restore health and well-being to the Native community.

Friends members and their guests receive discounted registration but membership is not required to attend. Registration is \$28 for members and their guests, \$38 for non-members. Proceeds from the event will support Ramsey County Library’s programming for teens.

The Friends Gala is back! We’d like to tip our hats to all who have supported the Gala for the past five years and let you know it’s time to mark your calendars for February 2nd, 2019. We hope you’ll throw your hat in the ring to help raise \$30,000 to support your public library system!

This event will feature a cocktail party atmosphere with live music; complimentary wine, craft beer, and hors d’oeuvres; silent and live auctions; prizes; and a costume contest. The festivities begin at 6:30 pm at RCL – Roseville, 2180 Hamline Avenue North. This is a public event benefitting the whole community, so gather your friends and family. Registration will open in December.

Upcoming Events

- **Friends Board of Directors** on October 15, 2018 at the Roseville Library
- **“POP-UP” Used Book Sale**, September 25-29, 2018 at the Shoreview Library
- **Friends Author Luncheon**, November 3, 2018 at North Oaks Golf Club
- **Friends Gala 2019**, February 2, 2019 at the Roseville Library
- **2019 Book It 5K Walk/Run**, May 18, 2019 at the Roseville Library

STRATEGIC PLANNING:

Vanderwall reviewed the input gathered from the Library Board members and key staff at the Board’s May and June meetings. Following those meetings, she held two work sessions with the Library’s administrative managers to draft revisions to the Strategic Plan and Guiding Principles based on that input. Vanderwall reviewed the changes proposed for the 2019-2021 document, asking the Board to discuss what they liked of the proposed changes, and what areas could be stronger.

Vanderwall will incorporate the Board's comments into a final draft, which will be presented at the October meeting for approval.

HISTORY PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Judy Woodward, History Program Coordinator, was present to update the Library Board on history programming over the past year. In 2017, RCL 93 had history programs with a total attendance of 7,672 people. This was more than double the attendance of the year before. The Library is on track to equal its 2017 performance, and perhaps even a bit more. With the all-important fall season yet to report, the Library has already had 61 programs through August with a total attendance of 4,798.

Highlights of the year so far included:

- Duchess Harris series on Police and Race.
- A multi-faceted series on the 50th anniversary of 1968—perhaps the most intense year in American politics and history of the 20th century. Speakers included Professor Mai Na Lee of the University of Minnesota on the Hmong experience; David Lebedoff on Minnesotans at the 1968 Democratic Convention; collaborators from the TPT Vietnam 360 Project; and speakers Peter Rachleff and Mary Curtin on the impact of 1968 at home and abroad.
- Our series All Politics is Local featuring Peter Bell, David Lanegran and former Mayor George Latimer.
- The Library remains proud of its commitment to promoting diversity among speakers and audiences and to encouraging institutional partnerships whenever possible.
- Approximately 40% of speakers this year are persons of color and/or women, and the Library is seeking to increase that number, consistent with overall history planning objectives.
- The Library has solidified new programming alliances this year with the Ramsey County Historical Society and the East Side Freedom Library, while strengthening ties to traditional partners like OLLI, Global Minnesota, the Foreign Policy Association, the MN History Theatre and local historical societies.

History Events This Season:

- The return of the Tuesday Scholar series got off to a great start on September 11th with the appearance of 9/11 whistle-blower Coleen Rowley before an overflow crowd. Although some potential audience members were turned away because of lack of space, staff were able to assure them that the program was being filmed. Expanded resources will allow the Library to film a greater number of history programs in 2018-19.
- The Library is also planning a number of programs from various political perspectives on the historical background and consequences of the upcoming mid-term political elections.
- In response to criticism from some quarters that the political viewpoints of Library speakers tend to fall on the liberal end of the spectrum, the Library has taken special care to include speakers of all political persuasions and is pleased to offer a series on constitutional law starting soon with a conservative pro-life female speaker from St. Thomas. As with the guidelines used in developing the collection, staff never want to back away from controversy, but are committed to offering a broad spectrum of views and arguments.
- The Library looks forward to expanding its commitment to local history with on-going series like Virgil Benoit's efforts to research and explore French-Canadian traditions in the area and the collaboration with the RCHS on stories of Black Minnesotans in the Civil War.

Distant Future—2019 and Beyond:

Look for programs on topics ranging from economic history to Native American history in Minnesota to the centennial of the "Red Summer" of 1919 to a firsthand account of the collapse of the I-35W Bridge.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Heidi Holland, Volunteer Services Librarian, gave the Library Board an overview of the volunteer activities at Ramsey County Library, which has had a formal volunteer program since 2005. Before then, volunteers helped informally in the libraries via the Friends. Volunteers support special events including:

- Summer Reading Program
- Friends 5K
- Library facilities (packing, unpacking, Grand Openings)
- Harry Potter Party, teen events
- Leading Conversation Circles
- Library Board members
- FrankenSTEM

Daily volunteering provides help with:

- Paws to Read program
- Pulling and shelving requests
- Circulation help (putting carts in order)
- Gardening
- Photography
- Shelving movies, easy books and music
- Mending library materials

The Library wants our volunteers to be thanked and feel treasured:

- Saying “thank you”
- Sending cards at appropriate times
- Hosting luncheons and parties in their honor
- Modest gifts
- Flowers
- Letters of Recommendation
- Gold cards

The Ramsey County Library is the place to be. Since 2005, over 2,100 applications have been received. #9 (volunteers have sequential access numbers) is still actively volunteering at Roseville. The 2,100 applicants do not include Friends of the Library.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL AND SALARY REVIEW:

The Library Board went into Executive Session to discuss the 2018 performance appraisal and salary review for Library Director Jill Boldenow. Following the conclusion of the Executive Session, Klausing made a motion to award Boldenow a merit increase of 4% added to her base salary, plus a one-time 1% compensation supplement, effective as of September 12, 2018. Berry seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

NEXT MEETING:

October 17, 2018—Ramsey County Library in Maplewood, 3025 Southlawn Drive, 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Larson
Library Board Coordinator