
Minutes of the Ramsey County Library Board June 16, 2021

LIBRARY TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Deb Berry, Claire Chang, Marisol Chiclana-Ayala, Sida Ly-Xiong, Sylvia Neblett, Gwen Willems, Steve Woods

STAFF PRESENT:

Karen Saltis, Interim Library Director; Pang Yang, Deputy Director; Mary Larson, Library Board Coordinator; Jeff Eide, Senior Library Manager; Carrie Lyons, Library Manager; Monica Stratton, Library Manager; Chuck Wettergren, Digital Services Manager

OTHERS PRESENT:

Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County Commissioner and Liaison to the Library Board of Trustees; Lynn Belgea, Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries

CALL TO ORDER:

Ly-Xiong called the virtual meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom video conference.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Neblett made a motion to approve the agenda for June 16, 2021, as presented. Chiclana-Ayala seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Willems made a motion to approve the minutes of May 19, 2021 as presented. Chiclana-Ayala seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Service Delivery Redesign: As of Tuesday, June 8th, Ramsey County's mask mandate was removed. It is recommended by St. Paul/Ramsey County Public Health (PH) that unvaccinated individuals continue to wear face coverings while inside. However, staff will not be monitoring for compliance. Social distancing requirements and occupancy and capacity limits were also removed.

Phase 2 planning of the expanded service offerings is underway. Services to be added include spaces to sit and read or study, furnishings to sit on, newspapers to read, in-person tech help, and limited in-person adult and teen programming. Public Health recommends that children's programs not be held in person given kids twelve and under are not yet able to receive a vaccine.

IT Consolidation Update: The Library transitioned to the County phone system on May 25. The County phone system provides additional features including video calling, unified messaging (accessing phone messaging from email) and updated call management for telephone reference. Work continues to decommission Library servers and migrate unique Library systems including the Automated Material Handling systems, self-checks, digital signage, and radio frequency identification (RFID) systems into the County network.

Countywide Updates:

1. The Economic Growth and Community Investment (EGCI) Service Team presented its proposed budget to the Ramsey County core budget team on Wednesday, May 26th. Members of the Ramsey County Library Management Team were invited to participate as part of the Library presentation and other EGCI departmental presentations as their schedules allowed. The core budget team will provide recommendations countywide by the end of June. These recommendations will be presented publicly at the Ramsey County Board Meeting on Tuesday, August 24.

Community conversations on the 2022-23 budget were held on June 3 and 10 to build transparency and awareness and engage community members in the budgeting process. The county's goal is to make community feedback a significant determining factor in future budget and spending decisions.

2. The Service Delivery Senior Advisory Council and Operations Advisory Council continue to meet on a regular basis. The Operations Advisory Council is beginning to plan for post-COVID services as well as framing up how other services can be envisioned and onboarded. Both the Senior Advisory Council and Operations Advisory Council participated in Organizational Readiness Interviews. A summary report will be produced and disseminated to the teams to inform future work.

Ramsey County Library's 2021 Summer Learning Program will be virtual again, with staff looking into the possibility of holding some outdoor programs starting in September. Pop-Up Library events are already underway, with a full schedule planned for the summer. The Library Board Trustees discussed the communication plan for Phase 2 library services, and various methods of communication from the Library and the Friends.

FRIENDS OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY LIBRARIES REPORT:

Friends launch search for next Executive Director

The Friends Board recently announced that Executive Director, Cyndi Cook, will be leaving at the end of the summer to pursue new opportunities. Cyndi noted that, "It's been a great 4+ years working with a wonderful group of people and an accomplished organization. I am confident that the Friends Board find just the right person to lead the organization forward in their next chapter of Library support!"

Nominations open for the new *Ruth Palmer Award*

Nominations are now open for the new *Ruth Palmer Award*! Ruth Palmer was the first Ramsey County librarian starting out with just a book mobile. She was at the helm as physical locations were added, one by one, over her 30 years of service. This award honors those like her who have had a lasting, transformative effect on the Friends and the Library. RCL staff, Friends members, and both Library and Friends volunteers are eligible to be nominated. Friends members on good standing are eligible to nominate their favorite Library enthusiast and the Friends Legacy Circle will announce the winner in November.

Roseville Area Community Foundation supports RCL Summer Learning Program

For over a decade, the Roseville Area Community Foundation (RACF) has supported RCL Summer Learning Program (SLP) services and resources for residents in the Roseville area with a \$2,500 grant to the Friends. This year, RACF provided a much-needed increased grant of \$5,000 that will go toward the Friends pledge of \$38,000 for Children's and Teen's SLP. Hearty thanks go out to RCL Children's Librarian, Ann Wahlstrom, for helping to present the Friends grant application via Zoom to the RACF Board.

2021 Membership Renewal Campaign Underway

Friends financial support for RCL helps to fill county funding gaps and provide vital community services such as adult programming, take-home kits for children and teens, and summer learning opportunities. Friends funding helps to increase access to the Library through expanded downloadable resources, closed captioning, and home delivery services. None of this would be possible without membership support and we are continuing to work toward our goal of 1,000 member households by the end of 2021.

Virtual Author Talk with Jenna Blum & Lorna Landvik

The Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries will be hosting a happy hour-style virtual event featuring two chart-topping novelists on July 15. Spend an evening with the delightful and funny Jenna Blum and Lorna Landvik as they conduct a cooking demonstration, talk about their work, and take questions from the audience. This event is a fundraiser with proceeds supporting Ramsey County Library. Fees per household/computer are \$50 for the public or \$25 for Friends Members.

Participants who wish to help fundraise for Ramsey County Library are invited to participate in a crowdfunding competition or mini auction. The group or individual who raises the most money for RCL on our peer-to-peer fundraising page wins a private half-hour “In the Green Room with the Authors” session after the main program. This event will also feature a mini auction with baskets of books to bid on in the week before the live author talk. Learn more and register at www.rclfriends.org/events/july-talk.

The Friends have invited organizations, businesses, individuals, and families to make a meaningful difference by becoming 2021 Friends Partners. A gift of \$500 or more to support Ramsey County Library will receive recognition and perks throughout the year.

Thank you to our 2021 Partners:

Roseville Area Community Foundation	Lambers & Alicia Fisher	Forum Kamdar
Silver Lake Smile Family Dentistry	Richard & Mary Fowler	Susan Miller
Twin Cities Pioneer Press	Elizabeth & William Frank	Wallace & Nancy Olson
John & Mary Bachhuber	Judith Froehling	Sheff & Deirdre Otis
Courtney & Andrew Billing	Nancy & Jim Guerino	Ron & Sandi Riach
Mary & Wayne Carter	Frank & Jayne Harris	Kris Robertson-Smith
Cathy Croghan & Kathy Robbins	John W. Harris	Dr. Krishna Saxena
Jeff & Paula DeZellar	Pamela Harris	Swami & Lalitha Sundaram
Mary Disch	Barbara Heinemann	John & Ann Trapnell
	Kate & Rob Huebsch	Susan Vandenberg
	Steven Johnson & Susan Iverson	Rong Yang & Haifeng Xi

Belgea noted that the Friends are in the process of re-forming the Advocacy Committee, and plan to have representatives at future Library Board meetings. Saltis has been invited to serve on the interview panel for the Friends’ new Executive Director.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PRELIMINARIES:

Saltis reviewed Ramsey County’s Mission, Vision, and Goals, noting that departments with strategic plans must align with Ramsey County. Yang reviewed her professional experience prior to joining Ramsey County Library as Deputy Director in March, and then led the trustees and staff at the meeting in some preliminary exercises to help lay the groundwork for the upcoming strategic planning process.

TASK FORCE UPDATE:

The Library Board’s facilitated meeting with County staff and a Ramsey County attorney. A facilitator has been selected and the meeting is in the process of being scheduled. The Ramsey County Attorney’s Office has been asked to provide a legal review of the Minnesota Statutes to ensure that the approved document conforms to the statutes.

The Library Board Trustees requested that the legal review be shared with the Library Board as well as the County staff, and indicated their wish to schedule a planning meeting with the facilitator prior to the facilitated meeting.

NEXT MEETING – July 21, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ly-Xiong adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Larson
Library Board of Trustees Coordinator