

## Minutes of the Ramsey County Library Board of Trustees July 20, 2022

**LIBRARY TRUSTEES PRESENT:**

Grace Atkins, Claire Chang, Sida Ly-Xiong, Sylvia Neblett, David Perry, Andrea West.

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jake Grussing, Library Director; Pang Yang, Deputy Director; Mary Larson, Accounting Support Supervisor; Maggie Soukup, Library Board Coordinator.

**OTHERS:**

Nicole Joy Frethem, Ramsey County Commissioner; Mary Worley, Executive Director, Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries; Les Sipkma.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Neblett called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

**WELCOME TRUSTEE ANDREA WEST:**

Director Grussing introduced and welcomed the newest member of the Library Board, Trustee Andrea West. West has an extensive background in non-profit work and a vast knowledge of Ramsey County.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Les Sipkma, Shoreview resident, identified a list of questions that he would like answered about the Maplewood renovation project. The questions are as follows: Has the café area been repurposed? How many square feet are assigned to the service center? Has the teen area moved? Will the teen area remain enclosed with a glass wall? Where is an anechoic ceiling required? Does Ramsey County have a purchase specification for noise reduction required from anechoic ceiling? Has HGA contracted a different sound consultant and if so, who? Additionally, Sipkma requested an update on the frontline worker pay. Sipkma submitted related news articles from local publications as well as a letter for Senator Klobuchar to Director Grussing for review. He also reminded everyone that Congress had intended library staff to be eligible for the reimbursement and encouraged staff to submit applications before the July 22 cutoff date.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

Perry made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Chang seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Perry made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Atkins seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT, JAKE GRUSSING****Library Emergency Cooling Center**

On Monday, June 20, Ramsey County libraries in Maplewood and Roseville extended their hours to serve as emergency cooling centers from 8pm-11pm that evening. Emergency cooling centers are activated when heat indexes are predicted after 9pm to be at or above 90 degrees for more than 1 hour. As the decision to activate

emergency cooling centers is dependent on weather forecasts, the situation remained fluid until 24 hours before activation. Because of the staff who were willing to work additional hours and the supervisors who coordinated the details of extending library hours, we were able to serve residents well. Approximately 40 residents used the libraries not only to cool off but also to access computers, use study rooms, check out materials, and receive food and water. This was a true team effort, with critical support from Emergency Management, Property Management, and Communications. Thanks to everyone who made this happen.

### **RCL-Shoreview Branch Manager Update**

First round interviews are scheduled for the last two weeks of July and second round interviews are scheduled for the first week of August. We look forward to welcoming the new Branch Manager to our team by mid-September.

### **Countywide Updates**

#### **1. 2022 Strategic Plan**

Ramsey County's [2022 Strategic Plan](#) is now available online. The priorities outlined in the plan set an 18-month outlook to guide our collective work and advance our goals of strengthening well-being, cultivating prosperity, enhancing opportunity, and modeling accountability. As the library is one among many departments that support and deliver on the plan, I encourage Trustees and staff alike to reflect on how our work aligns with these priorities and how they can be reflected in our departmental strategic plan.

#### **2. Smoking and Commercial Tobacco Use Ordinance**

On August 26, 2022, the Ramsey County smoking and commercial tobacco use ordinance will go into effect. The Board of Commissioners adopted the ordinance at its July 12 meeting. The ordinance will prohibit smoking and vaping commercial tobacco product use:

- On property owned, leased, rented, contracted or otherwise used or controlled by Ramsey County.
- In both indoor and outdoor spaces.
- In private vehicles parked on Ramsey County property.

Because the new ordinance applies to the spaces in and on which we provide library service, staff will be working with our county colleagues on communication and enforcement.

### **FRIENDS OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY LIBRARIES REPORT, MARY WORLEY**

#### **Name Change:**

At the April Friends of the Ramsey County Library meeting, the board passed a resolution to change the organization's name to Ramsey County Library Friends.

We are in the process of changing the Articles of Incorporation to be filed with the Secretary of State and will be updating the bylaws and policies over the coming months. Additionally, a new logo is in the process of being created for the new name.

#### **Legacy Circle news:**

I am pleased to announce two estate gifts that the Friends will be receiving in the near future:

1. An estate gift from Eileen Adams – according to the executor of the estate, the unrestricted gift to the Friends of the Ramsey County Library will be around \$300,000 and should be received by the end of 2022.
2. The second gift is from Ronald Varns designated for the betterment of the Mounds View Library. Progress towards preparing the Varns house for sale:

- We are in the process of liquidating Mr. Varns certificates of deposits, annuities and investment accounts.
- We hope to have the house ready to put on the market for sale by the end of July 2022.
- In collaboration with the Ramsey County Library and Ramsey County, we will be holding community meetings in the Mounds View area this fall to get input from the residents about the best uses for this generous gift.

### Upcoming Friends Events:

#### State of the Library

Thursday September 15, 2022

RCL Shoreview

6:00pm - 7:30pm

We will be holding a State of the Library event at the Shoreview Library on September 15, 2022 for our Legacy Circle members, Friends Board and Committee Members, Library Board members, major donors and key Library staff. The State of the Library event will be our way of thanking our closest friends with a keynote message from Jake Grussing who will describe his vision of the future of the Ramsey County Library.

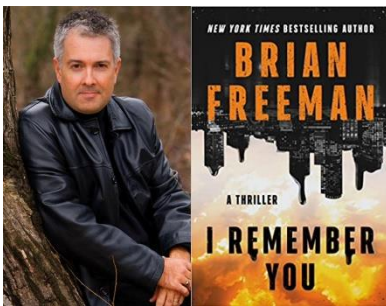
#### Books and Brews with Brian Freeman

Thursday, October 13

RCL-Shoreview

Registration: [rclfriends.org](http://rclfriends.org)

5:30pm – 8:00pm



Join us for an evening of Books and Brews with Minnesota author Brian Freeman! Fair State Brewing and Northeast Bank are the signature sponsors for this event.

Brian Freeman is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of more than two dozen psychological thrillers. He was also selected by the Robert Ludlum estate to take over Ludlum's iconic Jason Bourne series.

We will be featuring Fair State Beer, wine, soft drinks and appetizers.

The price of admission is \$25 for Friends members and \$40 for non-members.

Proceeds from this event will support the growing outreach and engagement programs of Ramsey County Library. Outreach Librarians provide services to immigrant groups, incarcerated residents, seniors, and non-library users throughout local communities.

### **RAMSEY COUNTY BOARD LIAISON REPORT**

Commissioner Frethem reminded everyone that COVID – 19 is still very much prevalent and to take the necessary precautions to stay safe and healthy.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING DISCUSSION**

In preparation for the August strategic planning discussion, Grussing shared a reading list gathered by staff to help stimulate critical thinking. To listen to the entire discussion, please [follow this link.](#) (08:29)

### **MAPLEWOOD RENOVATION UPDATE**

Yang shared a number of important upcoming dates related to the Maplewood renovation. On July 25 from 4:00 – 6:00pm there will be a community engagement event, mid-August the guaranteed maximum price will be made available, September – December 2022 the construction documents will be made available, and by January 2023 construction will start. To listen to the entire update, [please follow this link.](#) (25:00)

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Neblett reminded everyone that all future 2022 Trustee meetings will be held at the Shoreview Branch. Perry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20pm. West seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.