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**Minutes of the Ramsey County Library Board of Trustees**  
**May 17, 2023**

**LIBRARY TRUSTEES PRESENT:**

Grace Atkins, Stephen Fitze, Jason Isaacson, Marissa Kirby, Kami Miller, Andrea West, Dawne Brown White.

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Pang Yang, Deputy Director; Chuck Wettergren, Digital Services Manager; Jeff Eide, Senior Library Manager; Maggie Soukup, Library Board Coordinator; Meg Robertson, Library Branch Manager; Monica Stratton, Library Branch Manager.

**OTHERS:**

Nicole Frethem, Ramsey County Commissioner; Johanna Berg, Deputy County Manager; Antonio Montez, Ramsey County Racial and Health Equity Administrator; Valerie Wise, President of Ramsey County Library Friends; Kris Longhenry, Ramsey County EGCI Accounting Manager.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Atkins called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**MELSA FOLLOW-UP:**

Atkins reminded Trustees that they sent a follow-up email regarding the April MELSA presentation that was cut short due to timing. They reminded Trustees that MELSA has no concerns with the Library Board possibly transitioning to an advisory role.

**SUBCOMMITTEES: BY-LAWS AND POLICY, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

Atkins shared that there will be two subcommittees forming: bylaws and community engagement. They asked Trustees that are interested on either to reach out and that the subcommittee assignments will be finalized at the June meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

To view public comments made by Susan Johnson, Ramsey County resident, follow this [link](#). (03:14)

**APPROVALS:**

**April Agenda**

Fitze made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. West seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**March Meeting Minutes**

Kirby made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes as presented. Fitze seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**WELCOME NEW TRUSTEE: DAWNE BROWN WHITE**

Trustees introduced themselves and shared a bit about why they are serving on the Library Board. To view the entire discussion, follow this [link](#). (09:44)

**LIBRARY SHARECASE: Better know a library**

To hear the Trustees interactions with the Ramsey County Libraries, follow this [link](#). (21:15)

**PRESENTATIONS:****Library Budget and Overview**

Presented by Deputy County Manager Johanna Berg and Ramsey County EGCI Accounting Manager Kris Longhenry. Longhenry shared the 2023 approved library budget as well as a detailed explanation on where the funds come from and how the funds are spent. The PowerPoint presented will be shared with the Trustees after the meeting. To view the entire presentation and hear questions from the Trustees, follow this [link](#). (23:35)

**CEI Update:**

Presented by Ramsey County Racial and Health Equity Administrator Antonio Montez. Montez gave an update on the cultural transformation work that is being done with the help of the Center for Economic Inclusion (CEI). He shared that the Champions Team, made up of 18 library employees from across all branches and positions, have been meeting regularly and are currently working on developing an action plan to address inequity issues throughout the library. To view the entire presentation, follow this [link](#). (39:00)

**Strategic Plan Project Charter:**

Presented by Ramsey County Branch managers Meg Robertson (New Brighton branch) and Monica Stratton (Maplewood branch). The Homework Help project charter, lead by Robertson and Stratton, is focused on providing home help to the New Brighton residents (as a pilot) during the 2023-2024 school year with hopes of expanding the service to Maplewood the latter half of 2023-2024 school year. To view their presentation, follow this [link](#). (51:00)

**DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER UPDATE:**

Presented by Deputy County Manager Berg. The update can be viewed by following this [link](#). (01:15:05)

**RAMSEY COUNTY BOARD LIASON REPORT:**

Presented by Commissioner Frethem. The report can be viewed by following this [link](#). (01:26:05)

**RAMSEY COUNTY LIBRARIES DEPUTY DIRECTOR UPDATE:**

Presented by Deputy Director Yang. Her update can be viewed by following this [link](#). (01:30:00)

**RAMSEY COUNTY LIBRARY FRIENDS LIASON UPDATE:**

Ramsey County Library Friends President, Valerie Wise, shared an update. Her update can be viewed by following this [link](#). (01:31:30)

**FUTURE MEETING TOPICS**

Upcoming meeting topics will include digital equity and the advancement efforts around the Library and County and how programing (events/courses) for the library is chosen.

**ADJOURMENT:**

A motion was made by Kirby to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. The motion was seconded by Isaacson, which passed unanimously.