

Ramsey County Library Advisory Board Meeting
March 19, 2025
Ramsey County Library – Maplewood
3025 Southlawn Drive, Maplewood, MN 55109

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Kami Miller, Marissa Kirby-Stofferahn, Dawne Brown White, Andrea West, Sandy Doubek, and Molly Jansen

NOT PRESENT: Alex Kovarik

STAFF PRESENT: Pang Yang, Library Director; Ray Lockman, Library Deputy Director; Chuck Wettergren, Digital Services Manager; and Lola Ryan, Library Board Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Kirby-Stofferahn called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of the March Meeting Agenda

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

Approval of the 2025 January Meeting Minutes

West abstained from the approval of January meeting minutes due to their absence. Kirby-Stofferahn made a motion to approve the January 15 meeting minutes. Miller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of the 2025 February Meeting Minutes

Brown White abstained from the approval of February meeting minutes due to their absence. Doubek made a motion to approve the February 19 meeting minutes. Jansen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Volunteer Program

Beth Porter, Program Specialist and Systemwide Volunteer Coordinator at the Ramsey County Library in Shoreview, provided an overview of the library's volunteer program, highlighting key changes and its ongoing impact. In 2024, following updates to the program, Porter has been focused on advancing it, including the conversion of the database to Volgistics. Volgistics is an internet-based volunteer management system that the county subscribes to, offering benefits such as centralization of volunteer data and documents, improved accuracy in tracking volunteer hours, and enhanced reporting capabilities.

As of December 2024, the program has 121 active volunteers assisting in various roles, from circulation support to library programs like Homework Help and PAWS to Read, with plans for further expansion. Porter also shared the financial impact of the Ramsey County Library's volunteer programs in 2024, estimating a contribution of over \$300,000. She emphasized the importance of community engagement and outlined plans to increase volunteer involvement, particularly in the Homework Help program. The library continues to seek new volunteers and interns to support its mission and strengthen its community connections.

2026 – 2027 Budget

Yang shared that the 2026-2027 Ramsey County budget process aligns with the Board of Commissioners' vision, mission, and goals, as well as the strategic plans of both the County and the Library. Department budget proposals focus on service delivery, collaboration across Ramsey County, organizational excellence, partnerships, and fiscal sustainability. Library leadership engaged Library Advisory Board members in a 20-minute budget exercise to enhance their understanding of budget management, address the impact of budget changes, and gather recommendations that reflect community values to guide the next biennial budget. The feedback from members during this exercise will help inform future budget decisions.

Library Director's Report

Yang provided the March staff updates and informed Library Advisory Board members that, on March 5th, the Twin Cities metro area experienced significant snowfall, which disrupted Metro Transit services and halted many businesses. Despite these challenges, Ramsey County Library staff ensured that library services remained accessible to the public. Ramsey County is actively addressing leadership vacancies in four management roles across various library locations, with interim management in place for the time being. The library's management team has also completed an assessment to strengthen leadership and communication, continuing development through resilient leadership training.

On April 10, 2025, all libraries will be closed for an In-Service Day focused on training staff in racial justice in library services. Additionally, the library launched the "Take Me Home Library" program, installing movable bookshelves in key community locations such as Today's Harvest, The Community Market, Mental Health Urgent Care, and the Harriet Tubman Center East to provide free books, promote literacy, reduce barriers to books, and encourage library use. Lastly, on March 11, 2025, Ramsey County welcomed Garrison McMurtrey as the newly elected District 3 Commissioner, making history as the first Black man elected to a county board in Minnesota.

ADJOURN

Doubek made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Miller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.