

Ramsey County Library Advisory Board Meeting
May 21, 2025
Ramsey County Library – White Bear Lake
2150 2nd Street, White Bear Lake, MN 55110

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

NOT PRESENT: Dawn Brown White and Alex Kovarik

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff Eide, Branch Manager; Carrie Hatler, Communication Associate; Pa Na Lor, Digital Communications Specialist; Ray Lockman, Library Deputy Director; John Louis, Communications Manager; Melissa Nykanen, Friends Executive Director; Rose Lindsey, Director of Communications & Public Relations; Lola Ryan, Library Board Coordinator; Pang Yang, Library Director

CALL TO ORDER

Kirby-Stofferahn called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of the May Meeting Agenda

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

Approval of the 2025 April Meeting Minutes

Jansen made a motion to approve the April 16 meeting minutes. Doubek seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Acknowledgement of the 2025 Library Donations

All donations under \$5,000.00 donated to the library come to the Library Advisory Board for acknowledgement. Donations over \$5,000.00 are accepted by the County Board on behalf of the libraries. The library had received several year-end donations, and the board reviewed and acknowledged the donations. Doubek made a motion to acknowledge the donations to the Ramsey County Libraries as presented. Jansen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Friends Report

Melissa Nykanen, Executive Director of the Ramsey County Library Friends (RCLF), provided an update to the Library Advisory Board highlighting the organization's recent contributions and upcoming initiatives. RCLF ended the year with a financial surplus, which was allocated back to the library through a grant. The group actively supported library events and staff appreciation efforts hosted a successful fundraiser featuring a local author, and held a well-attended used

book sale, generating significant proceeds for library collections. Membership engagement remains strong, with 781 members. Looking ahead, RCLF plans to continue advocacy efforts, celebrate local literacy initiatives, and organize member-focused events. The organization is also exploring opportunities to re-establish a liaison role with the Library Advisory Board. If you do not currently receive RCLF's email newsletters or mail and would like to, please contact the Friends Executive Director.

Library Communication Overview

Rose Lindsey, Director of Communications & Public Relations, introduced her team: John Louis, Communications Manager; Carrie Hatler, Communications Associate; and Pa Na Lor, Digital Communications Specialist. They provided an overview of Ramsey County Communications & Public Relations (CPR), outlining the department's services, countywide communication channels, and library-specific platforms. The presentation highlighted the communications modernization efforts for Ramsey County Library and previewed key projects planned for 2025. The goals of the presentation were to build stronger relationships, demonstrate how CPR supports the library, and share a sneak peek of creative artwork for one of the library's largest programs. Additional topics included a hyperlocal marketing approach and the library's social media strategy.

2026 Closure Calendar

Director Yang presented the draft 2026 closure calendar to the Library Board for review and discussion. Prepared by library staff, this annual calendar outlines all scheduled closures for the upcoming year, including county-designated paid holidays and additional dates when libraries will be closed. Following the discussion, the 2026 closure calendar is now official.

Library Director's Report

Yang shared the May staff updates with the Library Advisory Board, highlighting Ramsey County Library continued focus on lifelong learning, digital equity, and community engagement. The Summer Learning Program launched with engaging youth activities, made possible through the efforts of dedicated staff and support from partners including MELSA, the Legacy Fund, and Ramsey County Library Friends. The library also rolled out its new app, *My RCLreads*, offering improved features for account management and event tracking. Upgrades are underway to enhance public internet access at multiple branches, including expanded Wi-Fi coverage into parking areas. Additionally, Ramsey County Library Friends contributed a generous gift supporting diverse collections and programming for all age groups.

ADJOURN

West made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Miller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.