

## **Ramsey County Library Advisory Board Meeting**

**July 16, 2025**

**Ramsey County Library – New Brighton**

**100 10<sup>th</sup> Street NW, New Brighton, MN 55112**

**LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT** Dawne Brown White, Sandy Doubek, Marissa Kirby-Stofferahn, Alex Kovarik, Kami Miller, and Andrea West

**NOT PRESENT** Molly Jansen

**STAFF PRESENT** Julie Comine, Senior Library Assistant; Paige Fuller, Technical Services Manager; Ray Lockman, Library Deputy Director; Beth Porter, Program Specialist/Systemwide Volunteer Coordinator; Monica Stratton, Branch Manager; and Pang Yang, Library Director

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Approval of the July Meeting Agenda**

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

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **Approval of the 2025 April and May Meeting Minutes**

Yang announced that the minutes from the May 21 meeting were not available and will be approved at the September meeting due to the absence of Lola Ryan, Library Board Coordinator.

#### **Collection Development**

Paige Fuller, Technical Services Manager at Ramsey County Library, provided an overview of the library's material selection process, including statistics and trends related to physical and electronic materials, pricing structures, national initiatives, and the future of the library's collections. Twenty-two staff members oversee the collection, making decisions based on reviews, "hot" lists, patron suggestions, demand, and the library's commitment to racial equity. Physical books remain essential for promoting equitable literacy access and supporting early literacy development. Since 2016, circulation of e-materials has more than doubled, with demand continuing to rise. One-third of the circulation budget is allocated to e-materials. However, limited competition among e-resource providers and complex pricing structures create financial challenges.

### **Legislative Update**

Yang has advocated to the Ramsey County Commissioners and the Ramsey County Manager for increased State funding of libraries, as well as continued support for the library construction and remodeling grant focused on safety and renovation. This grant program was recently renamed The Mary C. Murphy Library Construction Grant Program. Yang also urged Ramsey County leadership to oppose reductions to the Arts and Cultural Heritage Funds, as libraries overall are facing allocation cuts, including additional reductions to both the Ramsey County Library and MELSA libraries. Although Yang does not manage the Law Library, there has been a request to review its system as well. Additionally, Yang brought forward a new request for Ramsey County leadership to support limits on e-book pricing. MELSA has revised the formula that determines funding for each library system by incorporating an equity component, which will slightly increase funding for systems serving higher BIPOC populations and economically challenged communities. Finally, Yang shared that the Federal Government dismantled the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which had supported funding for interlibrary loans, braille libraries, and other grants.

### **Library Director's Report**

Yang share with the Library Advisory Board members that Ramsey County Library has a partnership with The International Institute of Minnesota to bring community workshops to the RCL-Maplewood branch. Access to free Minnesota State Park passes continues to be offered at RCL-North St. Paul and has now expanded to RCL-New Brighton. The RCL Management Team has begun their journey together with the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). Ramsey County has also hired a new HR Director. Yang congratulated Chuck Wettergren, Ramsey County Library Digital Services Manager, on his retirement; his position has now been posted.

### **Meeting Cancellation**

The August meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2025, at RCL-Shoreview.

### **ADJURN**

Kirby-Stofferahn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm. Miller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.