

Ramsey County Library Advisory Board
October 15, 2025
Ramsey County Library – Maplewood
3025 Southlawn Dr. Maplewood, MN 55109

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Action Items**
 - a. Approval of the October Agenda
 - b. Approval of 2025 September Meeting Minutes
 - c. 2025 Gift Acceptances
- III. Discussion Items**
 - a. 2026-2027 Ramsey County Library Budget
 - b. Library Director's Report
- IV. Adjourn**

Library Advisory Board

Sandy Doubek
Molly Jansen
Marissa Kirby-Stofferahn, Chair
Alex Kovarik
Kami Miller, Vice Chair
Andrea West
Dawne Brown White

Ramsey County Library Advisory Board Meeting
September 17, 2025
Ramsey County Library – Shoreview
4560 Victoria St N Shoreview, MN 55126

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Dawn Brown White, Alex Kovarik, Molly Jansen, Marissa Kirby-Stofferahn, Kami Miller, and Andrea West

NOT PRESENT: Sandy Doubek

STAFF PRESENT: Monica Stratton, Branch Manager; Ray Lockman, Library Deputy Director; Lola Ryan, Library Board Coordinator; Pang Yang, Library Director; and Alyssa Stevenski, Teen Services Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Kirby-Stofferahn called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of the September Meeting Agenda

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

Approval of the 2025 May Meeting Minutes

West made a motion to approve the May 21 meeting minutes. Miller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of the 2025 July Meeting Minutes

Kovarik made a motion to approve the July 16 meeting minutes. Miller 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. Miller made a motion to acknowledge the donations to the Ramsey County Libraries as presented. Kovarik seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Teen Services Update

Alyssa Stevenski, Teen Services Coordinator at Ramsey County Library, presented an overview of Teen Programs to the Library Advisory Board, highlighting popular programs like MakerTeen, Teen Nouveau Summer Studio, virtual and in-person gaming, book clubs, and the 100 Books Before reading challenges. In 2025 alone, MakerTeen drew over 500 attendees, and virtual programs like Dungeons & Dragons and online gaming engaged over 200 teens. Stevenski also outlined key

community partnerships supporting events like Art Therapy sessions, and Teen Lit Con. Upcoming plans for Fall 2025 and early 2026 include expanded MakerTeen sessions, new gaming events, special book clubs, and the History Day Hullabaloo.

Friends Report

Melissa Nykanen, Executive Director of the Ramsey County Library Friends (RCLF), provided the Library Advisory Board with an update on recent activities and upcoming initiatives. RCLF successfully encouraged supporters to contact County Commissioners in support of the library, resulting in numerous impactful emails. The annual membership renewal campaign engaged 600 member households and saw an increase in monthly donors. This year, RCLF also hosted a new event, Summer Nights with Friends, to support the Summer Reading Program, and released the 2024 Friends Impact Report. Credit card payments are now accepted at all six used bookstores and book carts, contributing to strong book sales so far.

Looking ahead, RCLF is developing a communication plan in response to the recent County budget proposal for 2026–2027. A Friends Board subcommittee has drafted a proposal for using a legacy gift received in 2022–2023 to support library outreach and community engagement, with ongoing discussions with the library. Additionally, RCLF is awaiting an update from the County on approval to allocate part of a legacy gift toward initial steps for renovating the Mounds View Library. Upcoming events include the State of the Friends, the semi-annual used book sale, and the Friends Board meeting. RCLF also expressed interest in re-establishing a liaison from the Library Advisory Board and encourages anyone not currently receiving communications to reach out directly to the Friends Executive Director.

Library Director's Report

Pang Yang shared the September staff updates and important information with the Library Advisory Board. Over the summer, more than 5,000 young people participated in *Summer Break*, Ramsey County Library's Summer Learning Program. Children ages 0–11 logged over 24,000 books, and youth ages 12–18 submitted more than 2,700 book reviews, with over 2,100 participants completing the program. This was made possible through the efforts of the library's children's and teen librarians, along with support from the Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, Ramsey County Library Friends, MELSA, and community partners. Wi-Fi upgrades have been completed at the Roseville, Shoreview, and Mounds View libraries, with outdoor access available at Mounds View. Upgrades for the New Brighton, North Saint Paul, and White Bear Lake libraries are scheduled for fall. Maplewood Library's Wi-Fi was improved during its renovation, and a parking lot expansion is planned for 2026. Additionally, the proposed 2026–2027 budgets for Ramsey County and the Library are available on the [County's Budget & Finance website](#). The library budget will be presented on September 18 at Saint Paul City Hall – Ramsey County Courthouse (Council Chambers, Room 300), with a public hearing scheduled for September 22 at 5 p.m. in the same location.

ADJOURN

Jansen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. West seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Request for Library Board Action

Meeting Date
October 15, 2025

Action Requested
Acknowledge

Presented By
Pang Yang,
Library Director

SUBJECT:

October Donations

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Review and acknowledge donations of up to \$5000 made to the Ramsey County Libraries during the month of September:

Donor	Purpose	Branch	Amount
Ramsey County Library Friends	Large Print Book Collection		\$100.00
Ramsey County Library Friends	Undesignated	RV	\$1,000.00

Request for Library Board Action

Request for Library Board Action

Meeting Date
October 15, 2025

Action Requested
Information and Discussion

Presented By
Pang Yang,
Library Director

SUBJECT:

2026-2027 Ramsey County Library Budget

BACKGROUND:

Ramsey County's 2026-2027 budget process advances the vision, mission and goals established by the Board of Commissioners and the strategic priorities outlined in the County's strategic plan, as well as the Library's strategic plan.

Budget proposals from Departments should include and focus on the following: department responsible services, operating as One Ramsey County, investing in organizational excellence, advancing partnerships, and supporting long-term fiscal health.

Budget Process Timeline:

- March: Library Advisory Board and Management Team finance exercises
- September 2: County Manager budget presentation to Ramsey County Board of Commissioners
- September 18: Ramsey County Library budget presentation to Ramsey County Board of Commissioners
- September 22: First public hearing
- September 23: Maximum property tax levy for 2026 set
- December 11: Truth in Taxation hearing
- December 16: Final budget and levy approval

Library leadership will present information on the Ramsey County budget process and share the Library's budget for discussion.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

For information and discussion.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

October 2025

October Staff Updates:

Hired:	Linden Galloway, RCL North Saint Paul
Transferred:	Lola Ryan, to Ramsey County Compliance and Ethics Office
Promoted:	Siri Ericson, RCL Roseville Brie Baumert, RCL Roseville
Resigned:	Miku Negussie, RCL White Bear Lake

Important Dates: All Libraries will be closed on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, in observation of Veteran's Day.

Community Partnerships

On Thursday, September 25th, Saint Paul Ramsey County Public Health - Family Home Visiting Program partnered with Ramsey County Library – Roseville to invite new families to enjoy and introduce the wide variety of Library resources. There was a tour was made of the facility, a storytime was facilitated with songs, puppets and stories, and library cards were created. Many families were interested in programs the Library provided, such as Maker Adult to utilize sewing machines, and utilized our other partner services at the Service Center to apply for health insurance and social security cards. There was also an interpreter to provide support in the Spanish language. This partnership is exemplary of Ramsey County Library's priority of Ramsey County Library's priority of *extending our welcome* and *growing our partnership and community presence*.

Training and development

On October 6, all Ramsey County Libraries were closed for In Service Day. During In-Service Day, all library staff undergo required training and development that may be difficult to partake on during their regular work hours. The In Service Day in October focused on the Inclusive and Respectful Workplace Policy, facilitated by the Ramsey County Compliance and Ethics Office. The Inclusive and Respectful Workplace Policy sets expectations for behavior to create and maintain healthy, inclusive, and respectful workplace that is free of harassment and discrimination for our employees.

Library staff were in attendance of Minnesota Library Association's annual conference. The conference theme this year is Cultivating Connections, Stronger Together and was held in St Cloud on October 9-10. Library team members Elissah Becknell, Beki Bjork, Lizzy Ngov, Whitney Storvick, Devin Warner, and Ray Lockman were in attendance.

Ramsey County Library Budget

Ramsey County Library leadership presented the proposed 2026-2027 Ramsey County Library budget before the board on Thursday, September 18, 2025. The presentation summarized the Library's budget, and informed the Ramsey County Board of Commissioner of major changes made from the budget. Major changes included cost increases for wage adjustments and service charges, revenue reduction, increases to fees, and reduction in staff complement and personnel.

Pang Yang