

**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.