

Ramsey County Library Advisory Board Meeting
March 20, 2024
Ramsey County New Brighton Library
400 10th St. NW, New Brighton, MN 55112

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Molly Jansen, Marissa Kirby-Stofferahn, Kami Miller.

STAFF PRESENT: Pang Yang, Library Deputy Director.

OTHERS PRESENT: Kari Collins, Interim Deputy County Manager of Economic Growth and Community Investment.

CALL TO ORDER

Kirby-Stofferahn called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

ACTIONS ITEMS

Approval of the March 20 meeting agenda

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

Approval of the February 21 meeting minutes

Miller made a motion to approve the January 17 meeting minutes as presented. Jansen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION

Ramsey County Food Security

Carissa Dillion, Ramsey County Planning Manager and Food Security Coordinator, and Moriah Cebulla, Ramsey County Intern, shared a presentation on Food Security throughout Ramsey County. Dillion shared the efforts being made to connect residents with available resources and her ideas on how the Ramsey County Libraries can be a part of the process. She added that hosting food distribution sites at libraries will broaden outreach and community engagement and increase hopefully increase referrals to public benefits. Dillion explained that the pilot partnership with the libraries is still in the development stages, but she is hopeful to have a plan in place by the end of April. To read more about Ramsey County food resources, follow this link to the [County webpage](#).

BRANCH TOUR

New Brighton Branch

New Brighton Library Associate, Choua Yang, gave the board members a tour of the branch.

UPDATES

Deputy County Manager Update

Collins shared that the interviews for the Library Director position have been scheduled to start the third week in April. She added that there was a lot of interest in the position and HR had received many applications from qualified individuals. Collins also shared that over the next few weeks/months she

would be doing a deep dive on all the services that the EGCI department offers and ensuring that the co-existing services make the most sense for our residents. As an example, she shared the positive partnership between the New Brighton Library, the New Brighton Community Center, and the various services available at that location such as SNAP and WIC offices.

Deputy Library Director Update

Yang announced that the County Board of Commissioner accepted the Friends annual donation of \$130,00.00 during the March 12 meeting. She also shared that on February 26 she was at the Capitol for the Library Legislative day. Yang thanked Jansen for joining her and other folks from the County. Also at the Capitol, Yang recently testified at the safety committee hearing and gave her thoughts on weapons in public spaces. Lastly, Pang shared that on February 14 Ramsey County Libraries hosted author Marissa Meyers for a special event that over 200 patrons attended!

POLICY REVIEW

Unattended Child Policy

The board members discussed the proposed changes at length. There were questions about how the committee arrived at the age of 9 and what types of training are provided to staff to ensure they feel comfortable with the policy and procedures identified within the policy. Chair Kirby-Stofferahn requested that this discussion continue at the April meeting so the entire board can discuss the changes. Yang agreed and she suggested that she invite Children's Librarian Ann Wahlstrom to attend the meeting next month to elaborate on the proposed changes and answer any questions that may come up. The board agreed.

Community Meeting Room Policy

No questions or comments regarding the community meeting room policy updates.

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

Future meeting topics suggested by the group:

- Possible partnerships with Be SMART, a program that teaches families about secure gun storage.

ADJOURN

Kirby-Stofferahn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Jansen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.