

Ramsey County Library Advisory Board Meeting
August 21, 2024
Ramsey County Library - Roseville
2180 North Hamline Avenue, Roseville, MN 55113

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

STAFF PRESENT: Pang Yang, Library Director; Chuck Wettergren, Digital Services Manager; Jeff Eide, Senior Branch Manager; Jennifer Dietrich, Branch Manager, and Maggie Soukup, Library Board Coordinator.

CALL TO ORDER

Kirby-Stofferahn called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

ACTIONS ITEMS

Approval of the August Meeting Agenda

West made a motion to update the August meeting agenda to include a discussion of 2 upcoming open seats on the board. Doubek seconded the motion.

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

Approval of the May 15 Meeting Minutes

West made a motion to approve the May 15 meeting minutes as presented. Doubek seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Roseville Branch Tour

Jeff Eide, Senior Branch Manager, and Jennifer Dietrich, Branch Manager, led a tour of the Roseville Library.

Upcoming Open Seats

There are two board members with terms coming to an end on December 31, 2024. Notifications to the two individuals were sent from the County Managers office informing them of their status and instructions on how to re-apply should they wish to continue serving on the board. The County Manger will accept applications through September 15, 2024, for terms beginning January 2025. Maggie will send a link to the application and board roster to the current members.

2025 Holiday Calendar

The approved 2025 holiday calendar was shared with the board. Yang explained that there was a change made to the Fall 2025 In Service date to accommodate for early voting.

Unattended Child Policy

Yang shared that the Unattended Child Policy was approved by Ramsey County Legal department yesterday. She thanked the board for their input and suggestions.

Banned Books/ Protested Materials

Yang shared the updated Collection Management policy that includes new language around the request for reconsideration process. The addition includes the new approved state statute language. Yang explained that the policy is still in draft form and will be submitted to legal for final review before published.

The board discussed the current process for protested materials (otherwise known as the request for reconsideration) and what an appropriate engagement level would look like for community and board members. It was suggested that the libraries take a metro-wide approach to show a united front when responding to requests. Yang agreed and said that she would bring the suggestion to MELSA (Metropolitan Library Service Agency).

Yang described the next steps as documenting both an internal and external process for responding to requests. She's hopeful to share a draft at the next meeting.

Director Updates

Yang shared the following updates:

- Ling Becker was named County Manager. Becker has been with the County since 2019 as the Director of Work Force Solutions. Becker will start her new role as County Manager on September 1.
- The Deputy Director recruitment is well under way. The first round of interviews has just been completed. Yang is hopeful to have second round interviews scheduled the last week on August.
- The food shelf pilot program at Shoreview, Mounds View and Maplewood is up and running. Funded through a tax levy, the program will run through September. Yang is exploring other funding streams to continue the program. The shelf-stable food bags are color-coded and contain culturally specific food.
- The Director search for MELSA is in process. The first round of interviews has been completed. Yang will provide an update as soon as available.
- Summer reading program had 4,637 registrations!
- The New Brighton branch will be closed for a week starting Labor Day for renovations. The New Brighton Community Center is getting new windows.
- All branches will be closed October 7 for staff In Service.

Adjourn

Kirby-Stofferahn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07pm. West seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.