

Ramsey County Library Advisory Board Meeting
September 18, 2024
Ramsey County Library – North St. Paul
2300 North St. Paul Drive, North St. Paul, MN 55109

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Sandy Doubek, Marissa Kirby-Stofferahn, Molly Jansen, Alex Kovarik, Kami Miller, and Andrea West

STAFF PRESENT: Pang Yang, Library Director; Chuck Wettergren, Digital Services Manager; Paige Fuller, Interim Branch Manager for the North St. Paul Branch, and Maggie Soukup, Library Board Coordinator.

OTHERS PRESENT: Melissa Nykanen, Friends of Ramsey County Library Executive Director.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ACTIONS ITEMS

Approval of the September Meeting Agenda

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

Approval of the August 21 Meeting Minutes

Jansen made a motion to approved the August 21 meeting minutes as written. Doubek seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Acknowledgement of Donations

Board members acknowledged the donations make to Ramsey County Library during the months of August and September and thanked the anonymous donor for their generosity.

North St. Paul Branch Tour

Interim Branch Manager Paige Fuller gave the board members a tour of the North St. Paul branch.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Introduction of Friends Executive Director, Melissa Nykanen

Nykanen introduced herself to the group and shared that she is excited to have the Friends office fully staffed and that she looking forward to working with the board members in the future. She encouraged everyone to consider becoming a member of the Friends and to visit the upcoming used book sale happening October 3rd through October 6th. Nykanen invited library board members to attend any of the future Friends board meetings.

Request for Reconsideration (Banned Materials)

Yang shared drafts of the request for reconsideration external process and internal process, as well as a form that patrons would complete to begin the process when submitting a request for reconsideration. Yang asked that board members review the draft documents and provide feedback. Yang explained

these documents, once finalized, will support the Collection Management policy that was shared with this group last month. The next steps will include approval from the Board of Commissioners, adding the policy and supporting documents to our public webpage, and training for frontline staff.

The group felt that the documents provided a clear, concise process and were in support of the 5-year decision period. It was suggested that clarifying the review committee would be helpful for patrons.

Director Updates

Yang shared the following updates:

- Yang gave an update on the Deputy Director position. Yang hopes to make an announcement soon.
- MELSA will be announcing a new Executive Director in the next few days.
- Ramsey County and St Paul Public Libraries are jointly submitting a 8 Million dollar Digital Equity grant request. If successful, the grant would allow Ramsey County to add 6 FTE to the Digital Services team.
- All Ramsey County Libraries will be closed October 7 for staff In-Service day. If any board members would like to attend, please reach out to Pang.
- Yang met with staff involved with the food shelf pilot program to discuss how to make the program year-round. She shared that since this a pilot program, finding the right solution for each branch is necessary. She explained that based on the response of patrons, the service is needed and that finding adequate resources and sustainable funding is the next step.

ADJOURN

Doubek made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm. West seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.