

Ramsey County Library Advisory Board Meeting
January 15, 2025
Ramsey County Library – White Bear Lake
2150 2nd St, White Bear Lake, MN 55110

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

NOT PRESENT: Sandy Doubek, Molly Jansen, and Andrea West

STAFF PRESENT: Pang Yang, Library Director; Ray Lockman, Library Deputy Director; Jeff Eide, Roseville Senior Branch Manager; Chuck Wettergren, Digital Services Manager; Melissa Nykanen, Ramsey County Library Friends Director; Lola Ryan, Library Board Coordinator

ANNUAL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Kirby-Stofferahn called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Chair**

Kirby-Stofferahn made a motion to nominate herself as Board Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Vice Chair**

Miller made a motion to nominate herself as Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Ramsey County Library Advisory Board Bylaws

The members of the Library Board had the opportunity to review and discuss proposed edits and modifications. In accordance with Article 8, amendments to the Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Library Advisory Board during any regular meeting. It is required that written notice detailing the contents of the proposed amendments be provided to Board members at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting. Board members made grammatical corrections to the document that will be voted on in February.

APPROVAL OF 2025 MEETING DATES

Kirby-Stofferahn made a motion to approve the meeting dates as presented. Kovarik seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

Brown-White made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. Kovarik seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

JANUARY MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Kirby-Stofferahn called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of the January Meeting Agenda

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

Approval of the 2024 November Meeting Minutes

Miller made a motion to approve the November 20 meeting minutes as written. Kovarik seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF 2024 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 a number of year-end donations and the board to review and acknowledge 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

Library Director's Updates

Yang provided December staff updates and informed the Library Board that the biannual budget cycle for 2026-2027 will start now and continue until the end of the year. Deputy Director Ray Lockman participated in collective bargaining for the period of 2025-2027, and an agreement was finalized in December 2024. On January 7, 2025, Tara Jebens-Singh (District 1) and Kelly Miller (District 7), were appointed as new commissioners, and Mary Jo McGuire was re-elected to serve District 2. The Board of Commissioners will recognize retiring staff Meg Robertson on January 28, 2025, and Nicole Herold on February 18, 2025. Furthermore, all libraries will be closed on January 20, 2025, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and on February 17, 2025, for President's Day.

Ramey County Library Friends Executive Director Updates

Ramsey County Library Friends (RCLF) is a 501c3 non-profit that advocates for and supports the Ramsey County Library system to enhance literacy, education, and community engagement. The Board of Directors consists of 13 members and three part-time staff, alongside over 600 Friends members. The RCLF provides a \$130,000 grant to the library and promotes it through used bookstores, book sales, social media, e-newsletters, fundraising, a literacy program, and capital campaigns. Ramsey County Library Friends held several events in 2024, including the State of the Friends. Their semi-annual Book Sale at the Roseville Library on October 3-6 raised approximately \$13,000, and a total of \$27,000 through their Year End Appeal.

Ramsey County Library Friends Board voted to disburse \$250,000 from the Varns estate gift to help fund the planning and design phase for the Mounds View Library. The RCLF will host several events in the future, including Library Legislative Day on February 20th and Virtual Library Legislative Week from February 17 – 21. A Breakfast Fundraiser is planned for April 12 at the Manitou Event Center in White Bear Lake, and the Spring Book Sale will take place from April 24 – 27 in Roseville. Ramsey County Library Friends requests that if anyone has suggestions for organizations that may accept book donations of books, to contact the executive director.

ADJOURN

Kirby-Stofferahn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Kovarik seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.