

**Red Wing Library Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers
May 14, 2025**

Members Present: Board Members Bruce McBeath, Amanda Motschke, Marm Nihart, Catherine Friend, Jacqueline West, Ron Skjong, and Kim Emery

Members Absent: Library Board President Natasha Yates; Board Member Joan Heineman

Others Present: Dan Brower, Library Director; Vicki Jo Lambert, Council Liaison

1. Call to Order

Library Board Vice President West called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Excusal of Members

Vice President West reported that President Yates and Member Heineman were unable to attend the meeting.

4. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Member Friend, seconded by Member McBeath and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as presented.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Consent Agenda

A. Motion to Approve the March 12, 2025, Library Board Meeting Minutes.

B. Motion to Approve the April 9, 2025, Library Board Workshop Minutes.

C. Motion to Approve March and April Bills.

A motion was made by Member McBeath, seconded by Member Skjong and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

7. Motions & General Business

A. Consider Motion to Approve Revisions to Library Programs Policy.

Director Brower referenced discussion of the policy during the April Library Board workshop. He referenced the revised policy and highlighted the changes.

A motion was made by Member Friend, seconded by Member Emery and unanimously carried, to approve the Library Programs Policy as revised.

B. Consider Motion to Approve Revisions to Exhibits and Displays Policy.

Director Brower referenced discussion during the April Library Board workshop. He noted that two existing policies have been combined into one draft policy. He referenced the draft language.

A motion was made by Member Friend, seconded by Member Skjong, to approve the Exhibits and Displays Policy as drafted. Member McBeath commented that the document should be considered more of a guideline, allowing the Library staff to use discretion when administering the policy. The policy language was further discussed. It was noted that the two policies have not been revised for many years. Following discussion a vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Consider Motion to Approve Revisions to Library Data Privacy Policy.

Director Brower referenced discussion during the April Library Board workshop. He noted that two existing policies have been combined into one draft policy. He referenced the draft policy language. He stated that the City Attorney has reviewed the draft policy language, making sure that the the language is in alignment with current State statutes. Policy language relating to minors was discussed.

A motion was made by Member McBeath, seconded by Member Friend and unanimously carried, to approve the Library Data Privacy Policy as drafted.

D. Consider Motion to Approve Revisions to Security Cameras Policy.

Director Brower referenced discussion during the April Library Board workshop. He referenced the draft policy language and highlighted the changes. He stated that the City Attorney has reviewed the draft policy language, making sure that the language is in alignment with current State statutes. It was noted that there are no cameras outside of the Library building.

A motion was made by Member Skjong, seconded by Member McBeath and unanimously carried, to approve the Security Cameras Policy as revised.

E. Consider Motion to Approve new SELCO Membership Agreement.

Director Brower discussed the agreement. He stated that the agreement, if approved, will expire on June 20, 2026, but will automatically renew unless the RWPL provides a 60-day notice that it plans not to participate in SELCO.

A motion was made by Member Friend, seconded by Member McBeath and unanimously carried, to approve the SELCO membership agreement as drafted

F. Consider Motion to Accept \$332,936.95 Bequest from the Estate of Dennis Ahern, Placing \$50,000 in the Red Wing Library Memorial Fund and the Remainder into a Non-Profit Provisional Fund with the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation to Supplement, not Supplant, Existing Library Expenses.

Director Brower provided background information, referenced discussion during the April Library Board workshop, and discussed the bequest. He reviewed the structure and purpose of a non-profit provisional fund.

Director Brower stated that funding toward an "intelligent" book drop for the locker system was specifically requested by the estate. He quoted the current price as \$9,760, good through June 1, 2025. He stated that this funding would come from the Memorial Fund.

A motion was made by Member McBeath to accept a \$332,936.95 bequest from the estate of Dennis Ahern, placing \$50,000 in the Red Wing Library Memorial Fund and the remainder into a non-profit provisional fund with the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation to supplement, not supplant, existing library expenses. The motion was seconded by Member Emery, a vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously. It was noted that Mr. Ahern was a frequent patron of the Red Wing Public Library. It was suggested to send a letter of appreciation to the family of Mr. Ahern.

8. Communication Items

A. Director's Report.

Director Brower highlighted topics from his report:

- The ongoing ILS migration and the new systems were discussed.
- Director Brower relayed feedback he received from Council Members following a presentation that he provided to the City Council during a workshop.
- Director Brower further discussed the Memorial Fund Policy.
- Director Brower stated that he received a draft of the Red Wing Public Library history book from the original author, Bruce Colwell. He stated that Mr. Colwell is willing to resume work on the book and suggested adding information from the last decade. Director Brower stated that grant funding may be available to publish the book when finished. Director Brower stated that Mr. Colwell was not sure why his past relationship with the Library Board ended. It was suggested to add this topic to the June workshop agenda for further discussion.

Director Brower also referenced a recent meeting with Downtown Main Street and reviewed demographic data and other statistics from Placer.ai.

B. Library Board President's Report.

There was no report.

C. SELCO.

SELCO Representative Janet Brandt was not in attendance.

D. City Council Liaison Report.

Council Liaison Lambert stated that Director Brower did a good job detailing the services offered by the Red Wing Public Library during his presentation to the City Council.

E. Friends of the Library.

Director Brower stated that the FOL is working on electing a full slate of officers and is planning for a fall book sale.

F. Fine Arts Committee.

Member West stated that the committee had nothing to report.

G. Personnel Committee.

Member McBeath commented that activity by the Personnel Committee will occur a little later during the year.

H. Long-Range Planning Committee.

There was no report.

I. Budget Committee.

Member McBeath reported that a committee meeting is scheduled for May 22.

J. Bequest Committee.

Member Friend reported that a committee meeting is scheduled for May 20.

K. Board Member Comments.

Board Members were offered an opportunity to provide book reviews.

Member Emery recommended *The Let Them Theory* by Mel Robbins, describing it as a guide to finding more happiness and energy in the context of today's social media driven world.

Member Motschke discussed the fantasy novel *The City and Its Uncertain Walls* by Haruki Murakami, based on a short story that the author wrote in 1980 and continued to work on for more than 40 years.

Member Friend discussed the nonfiction book *It's All a Game: The History of Board Games from Monopoly to Settlers of Catan*, stating that she learned a lot of interesting information and would recommend it to board game enthusiasts.

Member West recommended *Raising Hare: A Memoir* by Chloe Dalton, a British political consultant who ended up caring for an orphaned baby rabbit while living in the country during the pandemic.

Member McBeath discussed an audiobook, *We are Electric: The New Science of Our Body's Electrome* by Sally Adee, stating that the book traces the history of science in relation to the body's electrical systems.

Member Skjong stated that he is currently reading Percival Everett's novel *James*, which won a Pulitzer Prize.

Member Nihart described one of the game warden Joe Pickett novels by her favorite mystery writer, C.J. Box, noting that she recommends reading the series in sequence.

Council Liaison Lambert stated that she is currently reading *The Fourth Turning is Here: What the Seasons of History Tell Us About How and When this Crisis Will End* by Neil Howe.

L. Announcements.

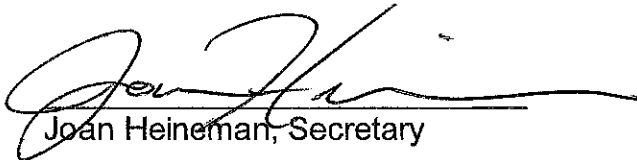
Director Brower announced that the Summer Reading program will begin on June 2.

M. Attachments.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

ATTEST:


Joan Heineman, Secretary