

**Red Wing Library Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting  
City Council Chambers  
September 10, 2025**

**Members Present:** Library Board President Natasha Yates; Board Members Amanda Motschke, Jacqueline West, Ron Skjong, Kim Emery, Marm Nihart, and Joan Heineman

**Members Absent:** Board Members Bruce McBeath and Catherine Friend

**Others Present:** Dan Brower, Library Director; Vicki Jo Lambert, Council Liaison; Beth Cato, FOL Representative; Megan Seeland, Children & Teen Services Librarian; Janet Brandt, SELCO Representative

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

President Yates led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Excusal of Members**

President Yates reported that Board Members McBeath and Friend were not in attendance.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

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

**5. Public Comment**

President Yates reviewed the public comment procedure. There was no public comment.

**6. Consent Agenda**

**A. Motion to Approve July 9, 2025, Library Board Meeting Minutes.**

**B. Motion to Approve August 13, 2025, Library Board Workshop Minutes.**

**C. Motion to Approve July and August Bills.**

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

**7. 2025 Summer Reading Program Presentation**

Librarian Seeland provided a summary of the 2025 summer reading program. She described the use of an online tracking tool. She reviewed comparison statistics with the 2024 children's program, noting significant increases in all categories of participation. She discussed the raffle baskets that were awarded.

Librarian Seeland also discussed the teen reading program and provided participation statistics, noting a higher retention rate in 2025 compared with 2024. Council Liaison Lambert asked about the adult reading program, and Librarian Seeland additional information.

Librarian Seeland highlighted some of the programming and activities that were conducted this past summer. She discussed legacy programs, community collaborations, a field trip and picnic, a finale presentation by the Magic of Isaiah, and ongoing activities. She reported that there was a very active teen volunteer program this summer.

## **8. Motions & General Business**

### **A. Consider Motion to Accept \$150,000 Bequest from the Estate of Douglas A. Hedin to Provide Innovative and Non-Traditional Services to Its Patrons, Per the Provisions of the Gift.**

President Yates provided background information.

A motion was made by Member Skjong, seconded by Member Emery and unanimously carried, to accept the \$150,000 bequest. Director Brower stated that the gift will also need to be accepted by the City Council.

## **9. Communication Items**

### **A. Director Report.**

Director Brower highlighted topics from his report:

- Director Brower discussed his participation on a SELCO ILS committee.
- Director Brower discussed plans for remodeling of the study rooms, including the installation of a sound room, with funding provided from the Douglas A. Hedin estate bequest and assistance provided by Public Works staff.
- Director Brower reported that a \$200,000 bequest has been offered from the estate of Cynthia Carlson, with these funds to be allocated toward the creation of a specific area within the library dedicated to those with low or impaired vision. He stated that he will be meeting with representatives of the Minnesota States Services for the Blind for discussion of potential options.
- Director Brower reported that one of the counters was not functioning during three weeks in August, which resulted in inaccurate patron visit statistics.

Director Brower also reported that some of the assistive listening devices have been damaged.

Director Brower reported that the Red Wing Library will be partnering with the Sheldon Theatre to be one of the host sites for the Manhattan Short Film Festival on October 2.

### **B. Library Board President Report.**

President Yates stated that she had nothing to report.

**C. SELCO.**

SELCO Representative Brandt introduced herself and provided a SELCO update. She discussed the creation of education modules to assist SELCO Board Members and others. She discussed the purchase of sorting equipment that will make the delivery process easier. She reported that an RFP process will be conducted to complete a delivery service and evaluation study, with best practices to be determined.

**D. City Council Liaison Report.**

Council Liaison Lambert expressed appreciation for the Summer Reading Program presentation.

**E. Friends of the Library.**

FOL Representative Cato reported that the Executive Committee has been reviewing the FOL foundational documents. She reported that a new Constitution is in the process of being approved, noting that a 30-day public review cycle began on September 2. She stated that the Executive Committee will continue its review of the Bylaws and the Standing Rules. She discussed the upcoming FOL book sale and encouraged Board Members to help promote the book sale.

**F. Fine Arts Committee.**

There was no report.

**G. Personnel Committee.**

President Yates reviewed the performance evaluation process for Director Brower, with assistance provided by City of Red Wing HR Manager Alex Saxe. She reported that a closed session will be conducted during the October Library Board meeting to review and discuss the performance evaluation.

**H. Long-Range Planning Committee.**

There was no report.

**I. Budget Committee.**

There was no report.

**J. Bequest Committee.**

President Yates referenced recent bequests and commented regarding the work of this committee.

**K. Marketing Committee.**

Member Emery reported that the committee met recently and has begun to identify potential marketing opportunities.

**L. Board Member Comments.**

Board Members were invited to provide book reviews.

Member Emery described a series of books written by Stella Rimington, stating that she became interested in this author after reading her obituary in the *Minnesota Star Tribune*.

Member Motschke recommended the book *Interior Chinatown* by Charles Yu, noting that this book was recently made into a TV series. She stated that the book contains a lot of satire, dark comedy, and exploration of Asian-American identity.

Member Heineman discussed a semi-autobiographical novel, *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, written in 1953 by James Baldwin.

Chair Yates recommended *Thin Places*, a memoir by Northern Irish writer Kerri ní Dochartaigh.

Member West discussed *The Echoes*, a uniquely but skillfully written novel by Evie Wyld, an Australian writer now living in the U.K.

Member Skjong recommended *The Lager Queen of Minnesota*, a novel about two sisters by Ryan Stradal.

Member Nihart relayed a conversation she had with a group of ladies about the benefits of libraries.

Council Liaison Lambert commented that she has recently been checking out a lot of books on the topic of native Minnesota plants.

Director Brower quoted from the poem *Marginalia* by his favorite poet Billy Collins.

FOL Representative Cato stated that she is in the process of reading *The Phoenix Pencil Company*, a debut novel by Allison King.

**M. Announcements.**

There were no announcements.

**N. Attachments.**

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Joan Heineman, Secretary