



# Meeting Minutes: Dakota County Library Advisory Committee

Date: 01/08/2026  
Time: 5:30pm  
Minutes prepared by: Chrissy Harrington  
Location: Robert Trail Library

## Attendance:

- Mary Janice Alongi District 1
- Ann Matthew Baussan District 2
- Robin Cerio District 3
- Kari Cahn District 4
- Lee Knutson District 5
- Lynette Cargill District 6
- Jennifer Reichert Simpson Deputy Director
- Heather Stephenson Assistant Library Director
- Chrissy Harrington Sr Library Administration
- Lil Letham Principal Planner
- Terry Rumpza Robert Trail Branch Manager
- Megan Autaubo Circulation Supervisor
- Patricia Schoenecker Member of the Public

## Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order by Robin Cerio at 5:30p

## Public Comment:

- No public comment was made

## **Consent Agenda:**

- Robin Cerio asked the committee to approve the November Meeting Minutes and Statistical Report
- Lynette Cargill moved to approve the November 13, 2025 Consent Agenda and Mary Janice Alongi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Public Art Blueprint Project Overview and Initial Community Input: Lil Letham**

- Lil Letham the Principal Planner for Dakota County came to talk to the Committee members about the development of a county wide Public Art Blueprint
- The Public Art Advisory Committee was established in 2006 to make recommendations to the county board on pieces of art to be placed in county public buildings using criteria and a process approved by the county board
- Lil explained that Public Art can take on many forms and gave the committee members examples of the different kind of Public Art that is displayed around Dakota County
- Lil also explained the Vision, Mission and Goals of why Dakota County uses Public Art and it benefits
- Community engagement has taken place. Approximately 500 people participated at 11 pop-up events, 285 participated in the on-line questionnaire and 3 stakeholder roundtables have been given to include artists, arts organizations and staff

## **Robert Trail Library: Terry Rumpza**

- The Robert Trail Library has hired a Circulation Supervisor this past year
- The in-person patron visits to the library have seen an increase this year due to population growth of Rosemount
- Working with the Rosemount Area Arts Council and local schools, youth art is displayed at the library
- Teen Programs has also seen increase of attendees at the events that is held at the library
- Meet the Author Program has also seen an increase of patrons that have attended these events
- The Solar Car Port has been up for about a year now and has made a wonderful addition to the building

## **Nominations and Vote on Chair and Vice Chair:**

- Robin Cerio served as the Chair of the Library Advisory Committee for the last 2 years the maximum term for a chair
- The Committee members thanked Robin for her service
- Mary Janice Alongi motion for the nominee of the Chair to be Kari Cahn and for Vice Chair Ann Matthews-Baussion Lynette Cargill second the motion
- The committee unanimously voted in favor of Kari Cahn as the Chair and Ann Matthews-Baussion as the Vice Chair

## **Director Report: Jennifer Reichert Simpson**

- Dakota County issued guidance on the immigration enforcement activities and community response
- The library stopped taking requests for Wi-Fi hotspots and Chromebooks on Dec. 17, 2025 and ended access to Hoopla on Dec. 30, 2025. These changes are being made as part of cost-saving efforts and will save Dakota County around \$400,000 a year. In addition, the library is cutting \$100,000 from the substitute staffing budget. Dakota County's budget reflects state and federal funding cuts and cost shifts, unfunded mandates, growing operating costs and a need to shore up county's diminishing reserve funds.
- Winter Reads is the adult reading program that runs Jan. 12-Feb 28, 2026. Participants can register at any library locations or fill out a form online. Registrations, book bingo, and book reviews enter participants for prize drawings, like a book bundle. The program encourages reading and event attendance.
- The 2025 Library Staff Day was a huge success the library staff got to hear from Dr Heidi Walsh the County Manager and partake in different activities throughout the day
- Starting Jan. 26, 2026 the library will implement a new public printing solution that makes it easier for customers to independently print from library computers and customers devices using the library's Wi-Fi. The current printing solution is complex and frequently requires staff assistance limiting its effectiveness as self-service system.
- The Wentworth Library renovation is going well it looks like the opening date has not yet been set
- The Burnsville Library will be closed on March 23, 2026 and will be closed for about a year for renovation
- The new Burnsville Library location will be in the Burnsville Center mall and will be open on April 1, 2026

## **Updates from Committee Members:**

- No updates from the Committee Members

## **Adjournment:**

- Meeting ended at 6:35pm

## **Adjournment/Next Meeting**

Date: March 12, 2026

Time: 5:30pm

Location: Wescott Library- Eagan