



## Meeting Minutes: Dakota County Library Advisory Committee

Date: 09/11/2025  
Time: 5:30pm  
Minutes prepared by: Chrissy Harrington  
Location: Farmington Library

### Attendance:

- Mary Janice Alongi District 1
- Robin Cerio District 3
- Kari Cahn District 4
- Lee Knutson District 5
- Patricia Schoenecker District 7
- Jennifer Reichert Simpson Deputy Director
- Heather Stephenson Assistant Library Director
- Russel Cogar Collections Manager
- Julie Dorn Materials Selection Manager
- Barbara Svoboda Farmington Branch Manager
- Chrissy Harrington Sr Library Administration
- Andrew Kirsch Member of the Public
- Kevin Hendricks Member of the Public

### Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order by Robin Cerio at 5:37pm
- No public comments were made

### Consent Agenda

- The Consent agenda from July 10, 2025, meeting was approved unanimously

- Robin shared that the request for reconsideration on the agenda were withdrawn by the member of the public who submitted them. Since they were withdrawn the committee will not be discussing the request and the agenda needed to update. Kari motioned to remove the request for consideration from the agenda and Mary Janice second and the committee voted to unanimously to approve the updated agenda.

## **Farmington Library: Barbara Svoboda Branch Manager**

- Author Allen Eskens launched his book titled Quite Librarian, which reference the Farmington Library, at the Farmington Library in February 2025 where 130 people attend
- Farmington Library Summer Discovery Program was a huge success this year thanks to the effort of the Youth Librarian
- Participation in the Summer Discover Program was up 28 percent this year from last year
- 44 percent of the participants finished the Summer Discovery Program this year
- Sixteen teen volunteers this year at the library that had a combined 197 hours
- The Adult/Teen Librarian has launched a coding class for teens with the portable IT iLab, this program has been very successful
- The Adult/Teen Librarian has had a successful monthly Dungeons and Dragons group of older teens participation
- Barb Svoboda teaches a basic sewing class once a month and it has been very successful
- Farmington's Top the Tatar citywide festival was a huge success this year, the library saw an increase of new people that visited the library
- Farmington Library was in the Top the Tater parade
- The Farmington City Parks and Recreation hosts the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Geocaching event
- 596 people participated in the treasure hunt within the 27 city parks that are located within the City of Farmington
- Farmington is growing at a fast pace, there is 56 different languages spoken in households in the Farmington area
- Farmington Library is the most Southern Library within the Dakota Library System

## **Annual Work Plan**

- The committee members discussed the 2026 Annual Work Plan
- Committee members shared that the activities of the 2025 work plan remain relevant for 2026
- The committee members asked to discuss iLab and other library technology in 2026
- The workplan will go to the Dakota County Board of Commissioners in December

## Director's Report

- The Library expects to take a budget reduction 2026. Proposed reductions include the library collection, technology and substitute budget
- The library staff has been kept update on the progress of the 2026 budget
- The County Commissioners will vote on the final budget in December
- November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, is the last day for the notice and renewal phone line
- The current system doesn't meet network security standards and ending the phone line is a cost savings
- A postcard went out to 7,000 patrons who still use the renewal phone line to let them know that this service will no longer be available. Over half of those patrons have an email in their account
- Staff will still help update accounts and sign people up for email addresses
- Starting September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, patrons will be able to opt into saving two years of check out history
- Starting September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, nine out of ten locations will offer Free Naloxone and Fentanyl Test Strips at all 9 locations. The Wentworth Library will offer Free Naloxone and Fentanyl Test Strips once the library is back open after the remodel
- Dakota County Public Health provided an introductory training for library staff on how to distribute the Naloxone and Fentanyl Test Strips
- Summer Discovery wrapped up and it was a huge success this year final number are being verified
- The Burnhaven Library renovation is on schedule. Construction is projected to start in Spring of 2026. The Burnhaven Library will have a temporary location
- The Wentworth Library renovation is on schedule and should reopen in Spring of 2026
- The Library received a Toro grant to improve the outdoor area around the library

## Updates from Committee Members

- Kari Cahn said that the road construction on Highway 3 (Robert Trail) has been completed the road is now open and the roundabout has been a welcome addition to the traffic flow

## Adjournment

- Meeting ended at 6:43pm

## **Adjournment/Next Meeting**

Date: November 13, 2025

Time: 5:30pm

Location: Galaxie Library- Apple Valley