



# Meeting Minutes: Dakota County Library Advisory Committee

Date: 03/12/2026  
Time: 5:30 pm  
Minutes prepared by: Chrissy Harrington  
Location: Wescott Library

## Attendance:

- Robin Cerio District 3
- Kari Cahn District 4
- Lee Knutson District 5
- Lynette Cargill District 6
- Jennifer Reichert Simpson Library Director
- Heather Stephenson Assistant Library Director
- Russell Cogar Collections Manager
- Amanda Feist Library Manager
- Chrissy Harrington Sr. Library Administration

## Call to Order

- The meeting call to order by Kari Cahn at 5:31pm

## Public Comment

- No public comment was made

## Consent Agenda

- The approval of the January meeting minutes and statistical report is table to the next meeting since there was not a quorum

## **Wescott Library Amanda Feist**

- Wescott Library has seen a 9% increase in gate count, 6% increase in materials circulation and a 16% increase in meeting room usage this past year
- Wescott Library will be getting a new sculpture out in the prairie, and it is called “Animal Imagined” by Isaac Kidder
- Winter Reads was a huge success again this year, Wescott had 84 participants
- Attendance for the adult programs have seen an increase this year
- The Homeschool STEM programs continue to be a popular event at the Wescott Library
- Wescott Library is excited to host upcoming events at the Library
- March 18 2026, Book Club: Join for an evening with Thomas Maltman award-winning author as he discusses his novel Ashes to Ashes
- April 27 2026, Meet Best Selling Author Julie Klassen
- The Wescott iLab is seeing consistent use of the equipment, 3D printing remains the most popular
- In May Wescott Library will host a food drive for Open Door pantry in conjunction with the Eagan Historical Society in honor of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence
- Wescott Library is now offering prayer rugs thanks to a donation from Isaroon. Patrons can use the prayer rugs during open hours.

## **Request to Review Exclusion**

- Since there was not a quorum the committee member could not vote on this exclusion
- Heather Stephenson did explain to the committee members how the library determines how and when an exclusion is necessary

## **Impact of Digital Book Pricing**

- Jennifer Reichert Simpson and Russ Cogar gave a presentation to the committee on how digital books are processed and the effects it has on the budget

- One of the app that the library uses is Libby App and it is a shard collection with a 8 metro library systems through MELSA the Twin Cities Metro Reginal Library System.
- 31% of the library's over 5.8 million checkouts are e-books or digital audiobooks in 2025
- Libby checkouts increased by 13% and unique users of Libby increased by 12% from 2024 to 2025
- 33% of the books and materials budget is allocated to digital books
- Public Libraries typically lease e-books and digital audiobooks through an aggregator such as Overdrive that provides the Libby app
- When option to buy a digital book is available it's often 2-3 times the cost of leasing the book
- Minnesota Library Association and Urban Libraries council are seeking legislative discussions and conversation with the 5 big publishers

## **Directors Report Jennifer Reichert Simpson**

- The Library have been nominated for Dakota County's Honoring Effective Responsive Outstanding Efficient Service Awards, given to collaborative efforts that advance the County's mission through innovation and service. The nomination highlights the partnership to leverage library locations as community health hubs, expanding access to Naloxone distribution, sharing breastfeeding and infant feeding support with Feeding Your Baby events scheduled adjacent to Storytimes, and sharing mental health resources to residents across the county. The nomination reflects the impact of staff collaboration and community connection and a shared commitment to supporting the health and well-being of Dakota County residents
- Wentworth Library will be open to the public again starting on May 6 2026 with an open house from 5:30pm to 7:30pm
- The temporary Wentworth Library location will be closing on April 24 2026
- Burnhaven Library will close on March 23 2026 for renovation
- The temporary location for the Burnhaven Library will open on April 1 2026 in the Burnsville center.
- 2027 budget talks are under way and more information will be provided at a later date

## **Update From Committee Members**

- Lynette Cargill told the committee about the OneBook OneLakeville event that is happening on April 25 2026

- Lynette Cargill told the committee about the Reading in the Park on July 7 2026 during the Pan-o-Prog days which is hosted by the Friends of the Heritage Library

## **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:42pm

## **Next Meeting**

Date: May 14, 2026

Time: 5:30pm

Location: Wentworth Library