

**RAILS**  
**REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM**  
**Advocacy Committee Meeting**  
**March 22, 2019**  
**Aurora Public Library - Santori Library**  
101 South River Street  
Aurora, IL 60506

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Gwen Gregory, RAILS Advocacy Committee chair welcomed everyone at 10:44 a.m. and called the meeting order.

***Committee Members:***

*Aurora Public Library:* Michael Campbell, Gwen Gregory, Liza Hickey, Thomas Stagg, Laura Turner

***Guests:***

*Aurora Public Library:* Deirdre Brennan, Jay Kasten, Jane Plass, Jody Rubel (designated minutes-taker), Wesley Smith, Mary Witt

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

Mr. Campbell moved, and Mr. Stagg seconded, that

THE RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

The motion carried.

**3. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**4. Approval of Minutes of February 22, 2019 meeting**

Ms. Turner moved, and Ms. Hickey seconded, that

THE RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 22, 2019 MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

The motion carried.

**5. Results of RAILS Libraries Tell Their Stories Campaign Survey**

RAILS received excellent feedback from the Tell Their Stories Campaign survey and staff are in the process of analyzing input. Ms. Witt prepared a summary and noted key talking points that can be used. The committee proposed the question, “What can RAILS do” and “What can the advocacy committee do”. RAILS plans to launch a dedicated website to share impactful stories. It was suggested to develop training by library type to promote services offered. RAILS staff to draft monthly talking points and share tools the committee members can use. The committee can be active in the profession and share talking points with peers and on social media. Another idea is to use National Library Week as an opportune time to advocate the value in libraries.

Ms. Brennan shared Dreams Take Flight video was well received which resulted in a lot of ideas. Many libraries have reposted on their websites and on social media.

**6. Discussion of Advocacy events since last committee meeting**

Members reported that committee and board members attended ILA meetings, legislative meet ups, and AISLE meetings since the committee last met.

**7. Discussion of advocacy issues and talking points**

Committee discussed the impact if funding for IMLS is eliminated. Brennan encouraged members to contact their legislative representatives.

**8. Next Meeting and Future Agenda Items**

Agenda items for the April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting include a plan for utilizing talking points and progress on advocacy efforts and topics.

**9. Adjourn**

By acclamation at 11:47 a.m. the meeting adjourned.