

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD MEETING

Friday, March 22, 2019

Draft Minutes**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Ms. Laura Turner, RAILS Board President called the meeting to order at the Aurora Santori Public Library at 1:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL OF RAILS BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Fister called the roll of the RAILS Board members:

Aurora: Christine Barr, Dave Barry, Susan Busenbark, Michael Campbell, Gwen Gregory, Liza Hickey, Jay Kasten, Paul Mills, Scott Pointon, Thomas Stagg, Laura Turner

Phone: Dee Runnels, Nadia Sheikh

Absent: Michelle Simmons

3. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Aurora: Deirdre Brennan, Jane Plass, Joe Filapek, Wesley Smith, Mary Witt, Anne Slaughter, and Margae Schmidt

Bolingbrook: Mark Hatch

Burr Ridge: Bill Goetz

East Peoria: Robyn Survis

Illinois State Library: Karen Egan

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Barry moved for the adoption of the agenda, Mr. Kasten seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

6. APPROVAL OF RAILS BOARD MINUTES, FINANCIAL REPORTS AND EXPENDITURES**6.1 RAILS Board Minutes of February 22, 2019 Regular Meeting**

Mr. Mills moved for the approval of minutes of the February 22, 2019 RAILS board meeting.

Mr. Pointon seconded and the motion was approved.

6.2 RAILS Financial Report

Mr. Goetz reviewed the financial report for February 2019. The February 28, 2019 unassigned General Fund (\$14.2 million) cash and investment balances would fund an estimated 14.6 months of operations. Cash and investment balances increased \$2.7 million from the January 31, 2019 balance as RAILS received the final payment (\$3,217,500) of the FY2018 Area and Per Capita (APC) Grant in February.

Total General Fund expenditures of \$7,630,483 were \$661,286 below budget due to favorable to budget results in nearly all cost components, the largest being Personnel (\$174,959), Contractual Services (\$220,053), Buildings and Grounds (\$56,366) and Professional Services (\$75,574) expenditures.

6.3 Approval of Expenditures – February, 2019

Mr. Goetz presented the expenditures report for February 2019. Mr. Barry moved for the approval of the check voucher/register for February 2019 in the amount of \$682,962.09. Mr. Kasten seconded and roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Christine Barr, Dave Barry, Susan Busenbark, Michael Campbell, Gwen Gregory, Liza Hickey, Jay Kasten, Paul Mills, Scott Pointon, Dee Runnels, Nadia Sheikh, Thomas Stagg, Laura Turner. Nays: none

7. REPORTS

7.1 Report from the RAILS President

Ms. Turner had no report.

7.2 RAILS Board Committee Reports-Committee Chairs

7.2.1 Consortia Committee - Paul Mills

There was no report.

7.2.2 Executive Committee - Laura Turner

There was no report.

7.2.3 Policy Committee - Paul Mills

There was no report.

7.2.4 Resource Sharing Committee - Jane Plass

Ms. Plass reported that the committee met on March 11. Cindy Clemons from CARLI was present to get feedback on a new program they are considering brokering e-resources to nonacademic libraries in Illinois. This new program would allow CARLI to offer a wide range of material and potentially serve a larger population. The process would include input from RAILS, IHLS, and the Illinois State Library. RAILS has sent out a second survey to the community colleges. The survey asks about the services available to district residents apart from faculty and students.

7.3 RAILS Reports

7.3.1 RAILS Monthly Report

Ms. Brennan reported that the Universal Service committee met March 21. The meeting was very substantial and a written report will be given at the April board meeting. The Explore More Illinois program has 180 libraries and 19 attractions have signed up in time for the April 1st kickoff. Jessica Barnes will do a report at April Board meeting. There is member update on April 11, one of the topics will be the minimum wage issue.

7.3.2 Service of the Month Report: Resource sharing picture in Illinois

Ms. Slaughter reported that 36% of RAILS libraries belong to a catalog consortium, 54% are “standalone” meaning they maintain their own catalog software, and 10% are nonautomated and do not currently have a library catalog. There are six groups of libraries who share catalog (integrated library system, or ILS) software, with a combined total of 420 members varying in size from 6-147. They primarily serve public libraries, but also include academic, school, and special libraries. The expanded definition of LLSAP was approved by the RAILS Board in 2016, and we developed an annual grant model to allow any consortium within our service area to qualify for RAILS support by meeting the criteria within the LLSAP definition. RAILS provides support to each of these groups via a mix of financial support and in kind services of their choice, totaling about \$2.25M in the RAILS budget. Catalog membership grants are a key avenue for supporting LLSAPs. These grants help expand their

membership by providing support to libraries for many of the one-time costs associated with joining a consortium, including vendor services and necessary technology.

7.4 Illinois State Library Report- ISL Staff

Ms. Egan reported that the RAILS staff has been hard at work along with ISL staff getting the members to certify and complete the ILLINET traffic survey. Award letters are currently going out to recipients of the Public Library Construction Grants. The State library staff is reviewing Project Next Generation and Adult Literacy grant applications. The Public Library Per Capita Grants are being funded at the max level of \$1.25 per person. The State library is looking forward to hosting a meeting of system staff at the April 4 meeting in Springfield.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Prison libraries in RAILS

Mr. Mills said reported that he has met with State Senator Pat McGuire regarding library services at Stateville Correctional Center in Crest Hill. Mr. Pointon said the wardens set guidelines for their facilities and those guidelines concerning where materials come from and what materials are made available, can vary greatly. According to the census, prisoners at the correctional centers are considered residents of their respective municipalities so should therefore also be eligible for library services. Ms. Runnels said that prisoner access to law libraries is an ongoing legal issue in Illinois. Mr. Mills and Mr. Pointon will continue to work on this issue and update the RAILS board.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9.1 Advocacy Report

Ms. Gregory reported on the Advocacy committee meeting that took place just before the board meeting. The committee reviewed the RAILS survey results from the "Libraries tell their story campaign". The committee will provide a written report for the board on advocacy tips and talking points.

9.2 Strategic plan progress report discussion

Ms. Brennan reviewed the next portion of the RAILS Strategic plan that pertains to working with RAILS area consortia and standalone libraries to expand resource sharing. This includes Find More Illinois, which is a "connecting software" that allows for more library resources across platforms and is generally less expensive than full membership in a consortium. Find More Illinois will also include a shared union online catalog, where records are physically exported, and still accessible to those libraries that are not automated.

Ms. Plass reported that the vendor, Autographics that is working with RAILS on the project, has been very helpful in making pricing improvements. She is working on how that will affect the membership fees and it will be a part of the System, Area and Per Capita grant application that will be up for approval at the May board meeting. The goal is to bring down pricing for the higher tiers in the fee structure. There is slow but steady growth in the program.

10. BOARD DEVELOPMENT

10.1 Reports Academic Library issues

Ms. Gregory reviewed her report on the issues facing academic libraries. Academic libraries are those libraries associated with educational institutions above the K-12 level. They includes

vocational schools, community colleges, four-year colleges, universities, specialty institutions such as law or medical schools, and research institutes. Some are open to the public, usually based on their parent institution. Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) is the major consortium serving academic libraries, with 130 members in the state. CARLI member libraries pay an annual membership fees ranging from \$2,000 to \$12,000, based on enrollment and type. Collections are usually focused on specific materials and much of that materials budget can be online or electronic collections.

11. RAILS BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Barr shared that a long time librarian from her school recently passed away after a long battle with cancer, the school was dealing with that loss. RAILS board and staff offered their condolences.

12. AGENDA BUILDING FOR THE NEXT RAILS BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting will be held at the RAILS East Peoria service center on Friday, April 26 at 1 pm. Items on the agenda are the continuing strategic plan report, a report on the Explore More Illinois program, and the annual Area Per capita and budget grant application.

13. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.