

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD MEETING

Friday, April 26, 2019

RAILS East Peoria Service Center

Minutes

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Laura Turner, RAILS Board President called the meeting to order at the RAILS East Peoria Service Center at 1:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL OF RAILS BOARD MEMBERS

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

East Peoria: Susan Busenbark, Liza Campbell, Michael Campbell, Gwen Gregory, Paul Mills, Scott Pointon, Michelle Simmons, Thomas Stagg, Laura Turner

Burr Ridge: Dave Barry, Jay Kasten

Phone: Christine Barr, Dee Runnels, Nadia Sheikh

3. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

East Peoria: Deirdre Brennan, Jane Plass, Joe Filapek, Wesley Smith, Mary Witt, Anne Slaughter, Jody Rubel, Greg McCormick, Rhonda Bierman, James Campbell, Anna Hutson, Laura Keyes-Kaplafka, Patty Kweram, Grant Halter, Kendal Orrison, Lisa Schmensky, Jane Bradbury, Jim Kregor, Robert Morgan

Burr Ridge: Jessica Barnes, Diane Rusch, Ryan Hebel, Stacy Palmisano, Dan Bostrom, Emily Fister, Anna Duff, Mark Hatch

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Pointon moved for the adoption of the agenda, Ms. Gregory seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

6. APPROVAL OF RAILS BOARD MINUTES, FINANCIAL REPORTS AND EXPENDITURES

6.1 RAILS Board Minutes of March 22, 2019 Regular Meeting

Ms. Busenbark moved for the approval of minutes of the March 22, 2019 RAILS board meeting. Mr. Campbell seconded and the motion was approved.

6.2 RAILS Financial Report

Mr. Kregor reviewed the financial report for March 2019. The March 31, 2019 unassigned General Fund (\$15.2 million) cash and investment balances would fund an estimated 15.7 months of operations. Cash and investment balances increased \$1.0 million from the February 28, 2019 balance as RAILS received a payment (\$1,614,386) of the FY2019 Area and Per Capita (APC) Grant in February. Investment income for FY2019 should exceed \$310,000, compared to the annual budget of \$219,200. Total General Fund expenditures of \$8,368,889 were \$725,082 below budget the largest being in being Personnel (\$196,123), due to delayed hiring and in Contractual Services (\$256,723).

6.3 Approval of Expenditures – March, 2019

Mr. Kregor presented the expenditures report for March 2019. Mr. Pointon moved for the approval of the check voucher/register for March 2019 in the amount of \$733,466.07. Mr. Mills seconded and roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Christine Barr, Dave Barry, Susan Busenbark, Liza Campbell, Michael Campbell, Gwen Gregory, Jay Kasten, Paul Mills, Scott Pointon, Dee Runnels, Nadia Sheikh, Michelle Simmons, 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 Advocacy Committee

Ms. Gregory reported that the committee met on April 26. The committee discussed talking points for Explore More Illinois. The committee is also defining their advocacy roles and topics and exploring other groups such as ILA Committees.

7.2.2 Consortia Committee

Mr. Mills reported that the committee met on April 15. One key highlight is that the Consortia Committee approved a working charge for the Exposing Consortia Holdings Group with a report due in October 2019. Mr. Mills gave a quick overview of the charge of the committee. Five Illinois consortia (CCS, PrairieCat, RSA, SHARE, and SWAN) currently batchload holdings information to OCLC via OSMOSIS. On July 1, 2020 OSMOSIS will no longer be available. Pinnacle gave an update on SimplyE and work being made on a unified app for patrons to access all different e-resources and work is promising. Mills thanked RAILS for spearheading the effort.

7.2.3 Executive Committee

There was no report.

7.2.4 Nominating Committee

Ms. Brennan reported that the committee met on April 15 and approved the ballot. Voting opened on April 22 and will close on May 17. There are two at large seats with ten candidates, two trustee seats with five candidates and one special library seat with four candidates. All seats are contested.

7.2.5 Policy Committee

There was no report.

7.2.6 Resource Sharing Committee

There was no report.

7.2.7 Universal Service Committee – Sue Busenbark, Deirdre Brennan

Ms. Brennan and Ms. Busenbark reported that the Universal Service committee met March 21. The group reviewed the RAILS plan and members provided their own opinions and insights. Busenbark shared that Carole Medal provided a passionate and articulate explanation of suburban problems one of which is for taxpayers who pay for library service, they do not want unserved getting it for free or more cheaply. The committee stated that there are 1 million unserved in the state of Illinois. There was talk about realtors and farm land development and how new homeowners are unaware that there is no library service available. Anti-tax sentiment is strong and very difficult to combat. Mr. Barry cited the need to define the problem(s), rural and suburban. Committee will continue to address universal service concerns.

7.3 RAILS Reports

7.3.1 RAILS Monthly Report

Ms. Brennan reported that the April 4 meeting at the state library with IHLS staff and ISL staff was excellent and that the group plans on meeting quarterly going forward. Ms. Brennan discussed SimplyE which brings together many e-book vendors to create a single search for library users. At this point RAILS is talking with LYRASIS to support expansion of SimplyE. RAILS is also a partner on a grant which will provide Illinois library's one year access at low or no cost. Also reported was the hiring of several new staff which started in April. Lastly, Ms. Brennan discussed the Member Update meeting which included a conversation on the minimum wage and Explore More Illinois.

7.3.2 Service of the Month Report: Explore More Illinois – Jessica Barnes

Ms. Barnes reported that Explore More Illinois launched on April 1, with 87 libraries and 15 attractions. As of April 18, there was 96 libraries and 19 attractions. To join there is no cost and a library fills out an authentication form on the Explore More Illinois website (www.exploremoreillinois.org) using their L2 password. She reported that on average one new offer is added per week and updates to the website will be done weekly. SWAN is currently testing and anticipates adding their membership soon. There is a plan to create a monthly e-newsletter for participating libraries so that they are kept up to date.

7.4 Illinois State Library Report- ISL Staff - Greg McCormick

Mr. McCormick reported that Joe Natale was named the new Chief Deputy Director. The April 4 meeting with the two joint library systems and CARLI was very successful and Mr. McCormick extended an invitation to the board members to join the meetings.

Letters of encouragement to all Illinois public libraries for the Illinois Census 2020 went in the mail and ISL is pushing that libraries help with the data collection. Mr. McCormick expressed the importance that the data of the census is correct because it will depend on state funding and congressional seats.

Mr. McCormick touched upon the need to fill trustee vacancies in a timely manner and that the state has found that there is a reporting problem that needs to be addressed.

The state budget is being worked on and he is happy to report that libraries have fared well. There is a lot of interest in the coming weeks about the possible graduated income tax. He also reported that ISL is following federal funding very closely. Mr. McCormick announced that for FY19 twelve Live & Learn Construction grants were awarded and that ISL staff are in the final stages of reviewing the FY20 Project Next Generation grants and the Literacy grant programs. Lastly, he reported that the Illinois State Library will be hosting the Elevate Illinois Libraries Leadership Program on Saturday, April 27.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 FY2019-2020 Budget – discussion of draft operational plan

Ms. Brennan discussed the first draft of the operational plan/strategic plan for FY20 and gave a brief overview of the five goals. The FY2019/2020 budget is being prepared and will be presented to the board at the May meeting. The Illinois State Library grant application will be approved at the May board meeting and is due to the State Library on June 1.

8.2 Executive Director Evaluation

Mr. Mills and Ms. Turner were given Ms. Brennan's self-evaluation. It was discussed that a SurveyMonkey document will be created and sent to the board members to fill out and will be due by the May 24th board meeting. The survey will be sent out next week to the board member RAILS email addresses.

8.3 Membership Changes Due to Annual Certification Results

Ms. Plass reported on the FY2019 certification results. By April 8, all but three RAILS libraries successfully complete the ILL Traffic Survey and certification or had requested withdrawal for various reasons. One agency successfully resolved its responses and two are recommended for suspension while fifteen libraries withdrew automatically. Motion to suspend Baker & McKenzie LLP and Reed Smith LLP from their RAILS membership was made by Jay Kasten and seconded by Tom Stagg. The motion carried.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9.1 Strategic plan progress report discussion – Deirdre Brennan

Ms. Brennan discussed the document 9.1, 2018-2022 Strategic Plan & FY2019 Operational Plan Progress Report which shows what RAILS did last year and what the plans are for next year.

10. BOARD DEVELOPMENT

10.1 Reports on ACRL conference- Dan Bostrom

Mr. Bostrom reported on the ACRL conference held on April 10-13, in Cleveland, Ohio. The conference had 3,000 participants and more than 500 programs. Mr. Bostrom said it was a successful conference and that he was able to meet with numerous academic libraries from Illinois. Along with the conference RAILS and IACRL (Illinois Assoc. of College and Research Libraries) sponsored an Illinois Academic Library Meet Up Group on April 11 where eight Illinois libraries attended with a focus on networking.

11. RAILS BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Mills reported that his library's Friends of the Library group will fund two artists in residence in their studio.

Ms. Simmons reported that her library will be losing their Children Services Librarian and if anyone has a good candidate please contact her.

Ms. Gregory reported that the University of Illinois at Chicago Library will have a contest for students to design models for a Pop-Up Library that will be voted on by students and staff. Also, this summer the university will have a couple of paid undergraduate internships for UIC students at the library to explore librarianship.

12. AGENDA BUILDING FOR THE NEXT RAILS BOARD MEETING

The next RAILS Board meeting will be held on Friday May 24 in Burr Ridge, note the time change of 10:00 a.m. because of the Memorial Day holiday. On the agenda will be approval of the System Area Per Capita grant, an update on RAILS e-resources, a review of the Executive Director's evaluation and review of the policy committee charge.

13. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.