

RAILS
REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM
Advocacy Committee Meeting
April 26, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
Gwen Gregory, RAILS Advocacy Committee chair welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. Ms. Rubel called roll:
Committee Members present:
RAILS East Peoria: Liza Campbell, Michael Campbell, Gwen Gregory, Thomas Stagg, Laura Turner
2. Recognition of guests and announcements
RAILS East Peoria: Deirdre Brennan, Jane Plass, Jody Rubel, Wesley Smith, Mary Witt
RAILS Burr Ridge: Jay Kasten, Emily Fister, Anna Duff, Stacy Palmisano
Phone: Nadia Sheikh
3. Public Comments
None.
4. Adoption of Agenda
Ms. Turner moved, and Mr. Stagg seconded, that the RAILS board advocacy committee adopt the agenda as presented. The motion carried.
5. Approval of Minutes of March 22, 2019 meeting
Mr. Stagg moved, and Mr. Campbell seconded, that the minutes of the March 22, 2019 RAILS Board Advocacy Committee meeting be approved as presented. The motion carried.
6. Explore More Illinois talking points
The committee reviewed the Explore More Illinois Cultural Pass program talking points. It was reported to be doing well thus far with more hits than expected. SWAN libraries are not participating at this time due to authentication requirements and expect to join in the near future. The Explore More Illinois differs from the Museum Adventure Pass program in that it is more user friendly, allows much more flexibility for venues and is offered at no cost to the participating libraries. The two programs are dissimilar enough for libraries to utilize them both. The need to make the list of participating attractions more accessible online was addressed. RAILS has been in contact with the Chicago Public Library about joining the program but they have not yet decided to get involved. It was mentioned that once Explore More Illinois grows and becomes more robust, and RAILS gathers stories on how it is used, more organizations will be invited to join. Ms. Brennan has been working to get the

Brookfield Zoo to join and will continue her efforts towards that goal. Lastly, there was a call to libraries to publicize Explore More Illinois especially with summer approaching.

7. Discussion of progress on advocacy efforts and topics

Ms. Gregory attended the Oakbrook Legislative Meetup and was able to speak about RAILS with her legislator. Ms. Sheikh also met her representative at a meeting and was able to discuss RAILS. Ms. Brennan shared that the next video concept project will focus on promoting the value of libraries, dispelling the idea that libraries are not needed in the digital age. Many people do not have internet access at home and rely on their public library for internet access. The impact of the minimum wage increase on libraries will continue to be a topic of discussion and RAILS may do some training on the subject along with the salary compression issue. Ms. Turner reported that she and Dan Bostrom, RAILS Member Engagement Manager, are working with the Peoria area schools on advocacy, as there is no AISLE (Association of Illinois School Library Educators) chapter in the area. Many of the public, special and academic libraries are interested in collaborating with schools. It was suggested that Peoria should be used as a model for other areas of what can be accomplished. Mr. Stagg reported he attended the Rural Library Directors meeting. He also toured the Limestone High School library and was impressed with how the library and English department collaborated to create a maker space which reflected the current books the English classes were reading. The topic of book weeding was brought up with the suggestion that funding for new books is needed and fundraising can be utilized in the meantime as supplementation. Ms. Witt asked members if her talking points were helpful; the resounding answer was positive.

8. Next Meeting and Future Agenda Items

The next committee meeting will be held before the June Board meeting on Friday June 28, 2019. The agenda items will include reports on the ILA meeting and schools collaboration.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:00 p.m.