

RAILS RESOURCE SHARING COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, June 10, 2019 | 9:30 a.m.

RAILS Burr Ridge, Videoconference Sites, and Conference Call
125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527 | 630.734.5000

MINUTES

1. Welcome

Michelle Roubal, Chair *pro tem*, called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

2. Designation of Minute Taker

Anna Duff, RAILS Administrative Assistant, was designated minute taker.

3. Roll Call of Members

Burr Ridge: Michelle Roubal, Jeanne Modelski

Conference Call: Andy Allen, Brian Chase, Ryan Livergood, Sia Paganis

Absent: Christine Barr, Charm Ruhnke

4. Introductions of Guests; Announcements

Illinois State Library: Patricia Burg

RAILS Burr Ridge: Deirdre Brennan, Anna Duff, Joseph Filapek, Mark Hatch, Leila Heath, Jane Plass

Anna Duff and Leila Heath were introduced as two new RAILS staff members who will be working with this committee.

5. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

6. Adoption of the Agenda

Ms. Modelski moved and Mr. Allen seconded, that

THE RAILS RESOURCE SHARING COMMITTEE ADOPT THE JUNE 10, 2019 AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

The motion carried.

7. Approval of Minutes of the March 11, 2019 Resource Sharing Committee Meeting

Ms. Modelski moved and Ms. Paganis seconded, that

THE RAILS RESOURCE SHARING COMMITTEE APPROVE THE MARCH 11, 2019 MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

The motion carried.

8. New Business

a. Explore More Illinois

Ms. Brennan defined Explore More Illinois as an online cultural pass program for public libraries. By participating in the program, museums and other public attractions can make free admission, parking, or other offers available to library patrons. Over one hundred libraries and twenty attractions in Illinois are already participating. Special Projects Librarian Jessica Barnes has been very successful thus far with her efforts to grow the program.

Ms. Roubel stated that she has had inquiries at her academic library about the program, and she asked if Explore More Illinois would eventually be extended to academic libraries. Ms. Brennan responded that including academic libraries has already been brought to her attention and is something she plans on pursuing in the future.

b. SimplyE

Ms. Brennan described SimplyE as an app first developed by the New York Public Library to bring together access to e-books from various vendors. In this way patrons can get to e-books without having to go through multiple online platforms. SimplyE is already in use by a number of libraries in addition to New York Public Library. It currently works with OverDrive, Axis 360, BiblioBoard, RBDigital, and several other sources of e-books.

Ms. Brennan explained that there is a grant to expand the app to consortia as well as individual libraries. Minitex is the lead agency for the SimplyE for Consortia grant and during the grant period is providing the backend technology needed to connect libraries' e-books with the app. Minitex is currently working with Pinnacle Library Cooperative and several individual RAILS libraries to test the app. After the grant period ends in 2020, another provider will be needed for the backend technology. LYRASIS recently announced that it will provide this service.

Ms. Brennan stated that RAILS plans on supporting this program in future years, as it can help libraries offer patrons easier, more integrated access to e-books.

c. FY2020 committee appointments

To provide staggered terms for the committee, Brian Chase, Jeanne Modelski, and Sia Paganis were initially appointed for one year, ending June 30, 2019. They have each agreed to serve a second term, which will be for two years, ending June 30, 2021. RAILS thanks them for their service and willingness to continue.

d. FY2020 meeting schedule

Ms. Plass proposed that the Resource Sharing Committee start meeting quarterly at 10:00 a.m. rather than 9:30 a.m. Proposed FY2020 meeting dates are:

- September 9, 2019
- December 9, 2019
- March 9, 2020
- June 8, 2020

THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Library service to the unserved (universal service)

At a recent meeting of the RAILS Universal Service Committee, Carole Medal (Executive Director of the Gail Borden Public Library District in Elgin) articulated the difficulties of getting people to vote for becoming part of a library district. Ms. Medal suggested that to raise awareness, potential home buyers should be informed as to whether or not the property falls within a library service area. Ms. Brennan has been working on implementing this plan, but is encountering some complications with working with real estate associations. She intends to continue pursuing this avenue for addressing the issue of unserved areas.

Ms. Brennan noted that we need to understand why people are unserved, as there are multiple reasons. More information will help RAILS and other stakeholders address the problem. The Illinois State Library will assist with identifying the causes of unserved area.

Ms. Brennan also stated that the current complexity of Illinois library district law fails to provide incentives for libraries to merge, which could help bring more unserved areas into the new district. Grant Halter (RAILS Data Coordinator and Research Analyst) is working on acquiring a better understanding of the demographics for unserved areas. RAILS will keep everyone updated on this endeavor.

Ms. Roubal suggested that an online source be created and funded by the state to bring books and resources to unserved areas. Ms. Paganis asked if there was any discussion about unserved areas included the role of school libraries. Ms. Brennan affirmed that the support that school libraries offer the unserved population, such as participating in intergovernmental agreements with public libraries, is greatly appreciated.

10. Topics in Resource Sharing

a. RAILS cooperative purchases and vendor discounts

Leila Heath, the new Library Resources and Programs Manager at RAILS, spoke briefly about her background. She has worked in the library field for twenty years. Since beginning at RAILS in late April 2019, she has been meeting with current vendors, learning which libraries participate in various RAILS offerings, and exploring opportunities for new deals and discounts.

Ms. Roubal suggested funding be provided to acquire digital newspapers for libraries, since many might not be able to afford them independently. Mr. Livergood agreed that such funding would be a huge help to many libraries due to the high expense of that resource.

11. Reports

a. Resource Sharing Committee Chair

No report

b. Find More Illinois: First Year Overview

Ms. Plass noted that Find More Illinois has been up and running for more than a year now. The pilot period ends on June 30, 2019. The pilot libraries have been contacted;

eleven have decided to remain, while ten are withdrawing, resulting in a fifty-two percent retention rate. All participating libraries in the Rock River Library Consortium renewed, which reflects the great benefit of Find More Illinois for libraries in smaller consortia.

The first library with a standalone integrated library system was added in November 2018 and has since become one of the most active participants in Find More Illinois. New libraries are now being added at any time.

Ms. Plass also announced that the RAILS Board approved the changed membership fee structure for FY2020, which will make Find More Illinois even more affordable for many libraries.

c. RAILS report

The eight libraries formerly in the Northern Illinois Cooperative (NIC) are now a part of PrairieCat. RAILS funded the migration through its LLSAP membership grant program.

Ms. Heath will serve as a RAILS representative for CARLI's advisory group on brokering e-resources for non-CARLI members. This group will meet for the first time in July 2019.

As of July 1, 2019, RAILS and Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS) will have separate contracts with CARLI (through the University of Illinois) for the Illinois Library Delivery Service (ILDS). Under the initial arrangement, RAILS held the contract with CARLI and subcontracted with IHLS.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.