

RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 21, 2019 | 1:30 p.m.

RAILS Burr Ridge Service Center and RAILS East Peoria Service Center
125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Michael Campbell, RAILS Advocacy Committee chair welcomed everyone at 1:32 p.m., and called the meeting to order.

Committee Members present:

Burr Ridge: Michael Campbell, Selina Gomez-Beloz, Sarah McHone-Chase

East Peoria: Thomas Stagg

2. Recognition of guests and announcements

Burr Ridge: Deirdre Brennan, Stacy Palmisano (designated minutes-taker), Mary Witt

Ms. Brennan announced that Jay Kasten resigned from the RAILS Board and will no longer be on the Advocacy Committee.

3. Public Comments

No public comments.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Gomez-Beloz moved and Ms. Sarah McHone-Chase seconded, that the RAILS Board Advocacy Committee adopt the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

5. Approval of Minutes of September 25, 2019 meeting

Ms. Sarah McHone-Chase moved and Ms. Gomez-Beloz seconded, that the September 25, 2019 RAILS Board Advocacy Committee meeting be approved as presented. The motion carried.

6. Discussion of progress on advocacy efforts and topics

6.1 Report on School Libraries

Mr. Campbell attended the Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE) conference held on October 10-12, 2019. He reported that the conference was well attended and that he went to several sessions that were very interesting. Ms. Brennan has offered RAILS support multiple times to AISLE due to the fact that they are a volunteer association and will contact the new president for further discussion.

6.2 Report on Library Trustees

Mr. Kasten has resigned from the RAILS board and was not present at the committee meeting. Ms. Witt informed the committee that at the Illinois Library Association Conference on October 22-24, 2019 RAILS will have a signup sheet for library trustees at their booth. Ms. Brennan will contact Diane Foote, Executive Director of ILA to discuss the Library Trustee Forum.

6.3 Report on Diversity and the 2020 Census

Ms. Gomez-Beloz attended the Lake County Complete Count Committee meeting which offered training by the Census Bureau. The question regarding the safety of taking the census on a public computer was a topic as well as the safety of the public taking the census. There is a big concern by the public that taking the census will put themselves in jeopardy of having Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents come to their residences. The information that is entered into the Census is encrypted on two levels and is covered under Title 13 U.S. Code which covers the privacy of personal information. Also, the Census Bureau ensured that ICE agents will not be going to a person's residence from information provided on the census. There are no citizenship questions included on the 2020 census. Ms. Gomez-Beloz is working on behalf of the town of Waukegan with the community and the county to develop trust and to reach out to the public and educate them on the census.

6.4 Report on the Minimum Wage

Mr. Stagg discussed the minimum wage concerns with several libraries and heard the first two years there will have little effect but beyond that there is a concern. Due to the minimum wage increase Morton Public Library has made changes to their hours and Dunlap Public Library has chosen to use more part time staff and no longer offers the director benefits. Removing positions, revising job descriptions and using more volunteers were also discussed as ways to handle the increase in wages.

6.5 Report on Academic Libraries

Ms. McHone-Chase reported that she will chair the Programs and Promotions Committee at Northern Illinois University and will reach out to the Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries (IACRL) regarding the My Library Is.. website.

Ms. McHone-Chase left the meeting at 2:17 p.m.

Ms. Brennan attended the Illinois Library Association (ILA) Public Policy Committee and the ILA Advocacy meetings both held on October 7, 2019 and reported that ILA plans to file a bill asking for more money in the per capita grants for schools and public libraries. Funding for a state wide database is being discussed and investigated. Ms. Brennan also attended a collaborative meeting with WILS (Wisconsin Library Services) and RAILS on October 18, 2019.

7. Next Meeting and Future Agenda Items

November 22, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. prior to the RAILS board meeting.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Advocacy Committee Members:

- Michael Campbell, Chair
- Selina Gomez-Beloz

DRAFT

- Sarah McHone-Chase
- Tom Stagg
 - Ex Officio: Deirdre Brennan, Mary Witt