

RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 12, 2020 | 1:00 p.m.

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

APPROVED MINUTES

1. Welcome
Mr. Campbell, Advocacy chairperson, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
2. Designation of Minute Taker—Stacy Palmisano
3. Roll Call of Members
Burr Ridge: Michael Campbell, Sarah McHone-Chase
East Peoria: Thomas Stagg
4. Introductions, Guests, and Announcements
Burr Ridge: Deirdre Brennan, Monica Harris, Stacy Palmisano, Mary Witt

Ms. Brennan announced that Selina Gomez-Beloz has resigned from the RAILS Board and will no longer serve on the Advocacy Committee. Mr. Campbell and Ms. Brennan will inquire with other board members to see if any would like to join the Advocacy committee. After the upcoming RAILS Board elections any new members will be invited to join the committee. Ms. Brennan reviewed the Advocacy committee charge. The committee agreed to do an advocacy related program at both the ILA (Illinois Library Association) Annual Conference Trustee Day on October 20-22, 2020 and the AISLE (Association of Illinois School Library Educators) Annual Conference on November 5-7, 2020. For the ILA conference the committee decided to give a program on educating library trustees on how to communicate with school boards on the need for librarians. The due date for ILA programing proposals is March 16, 2020 and the programing proposals for AISLE are due April 3, 2020.

5. Public Comment
No public comments.
6. Adoption of the Agenda
Ms. McHone-Chase moved, and Mr. Stagg seconded, that

THE RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE AGENDA BE ADOPTED.

The motion carried.

7. Approval of the Minutes of the January 17, 2020 RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting
Mr. Stagg moved, and Ms. McHone-Chase seconded, that

THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 17, 2020 RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MINUTES BE APPROVED.

The motion carried.

8. Discussion of progress on advocacy efforts

a. State Budget

Ms. Brennan reported that the state budget is at a standstill due to the state legislature cancelling the committee hearings due to the Coronavirus. There are additional funding requests for libraries and also a bill filed by Senator Laura Murphy requiring public libraries to provide library cards to students living in poverty in unserved areas. The Universal Services committee has developed amendments to the nonresident portion of the local library act and the public library district act to legally give library cards to minors living in untaxed areas. Also included in the amendments is offering temporary cards and teachers cards. These amendments would then be voted locally by library boards and would not be required.

b. ILA Legislative Meet-Ups

Mr. Stagg reported that he attended the ILA Legislative Meet-Up in Galesburg, Illinois. The new RAILS video, "Elders of the Internet" was well received by several academic institutions that he was sitting with, including Knox College. He mentioned that several of the legislators from the Peoria and Galesburg area that did not show up are not up for reelection. Ms. McHone-Chase attended the ILA Legislative Meet-Up in Oak Brook and in Tinley Park. She reported that the Tinley Park meeting was very substantive. Mr. Campbell attended the ILA Legislative Meet-Up in Buffalo Grove. He reported that the challenge is that certain legislators do not attend due to being anti-library. He was very impressed with the legislators whom attended and with the story they told. There is a need to reach the community that does not use the library.

c. Other topics and future agenda items

Mr. Campbell reviewed the earlier discussion on what the committee should be focusing on and the committee charge. Ms. Brennan will put together an outline for the ILA Annual Conference program and send it to the committee for review. Ms. Witt reported that the talking points that have been created as an advocacy tool will be completed within the month. The talking points will be shared at the March board meeting. Ms. Brennan reviewed the details on the ILA programing proposal guidelines. ILA is focusing on partnerships and paired programing.

A future topic for the committee is recruiting trustees for libraries and advocacy to people that support libraries. The committee discussed the importance of having a variety of people with different backgrounds on trustee boards.

At the April Advocacy meeting Mr. Harris will report on board trustees, if he is not available, RAILS will reach out to ILA to speak on the ILA Trustee Forum.

Mr. Stagg reported that he attended the ILA Trustee Forum in Springfield on March 4, 2020. The meeting went really well with 14 trustees in attendance and was about building a strategic plan and the story of your library.

9. Discussion of future meeting dates

A Doodle poll will be sent out to the committee for available dates for the April and May meetings.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Advocacy Committee Members:

- Michael Campbell, Chair
- Percy Harris
- Sarah McHone – Chase
- Jenna Nemec-Loise
- Tom Stagg
 - Ex Officio: Deirdre Brennan, Mary Witt