

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD MEETING

Friday, May 22, 2020 | 10:00 AM
RAILS Burr Ridge Service Center
125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60257

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Paul Mills, RAILS Board President, called the meeting to order at 10: 01a.m. He thanked all for attending and announced that the meeting will include a closed session, where the non-board member zoom meeting participants will be moved into a “waiting room” until the board votes to move out of closed session.

2. ROLL CALL OF RAILS BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Fister called the roll of the RAILS Board members:
Telephone/Zoom: Dave Barry, Sue Busenbark, Michael Campbell, Halle Cox, Gwen Gregory, Dianne Hollister, Sarah McHone-Chase, Paul Mills, Jenna Nemec-Loise, Scott Pointon, Nadia Sheikh, Thomas Stagg
Absent: Percy Harris, Dee Runnels

3. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RAILS Staff via zoom: Deirdre Brennan, Monica Harris, Jim Kregor, Mark Hatch, Anne Slaughter, Joe Filapek, Ryan Hebel, Jody Rubel, Emily Fister;
Guests via zoom: Patricia Smith-Robert Rowe PL, Karen Egan-Illinois State Library

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments from attendees nor submitted via email prior to the meeting.

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Sheikh moved for the adoption of the agenda. Ms. McHone-Chase seconded and a roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Dave Barry, Susan Busenbark, Michael Campbell, Halle Cox, Gwen Gregory, Dianne Hollister, Sarah McHone-Chase, Paul Mills, Jenna Nemec-Louise, Scott Pointon, Dee Runnels, Nadia Sheikh, Tom Stagg. Nays: none

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

6.1 RAILS Board Minutes of April 24, 2020 Regular Meeting

Ms. McHone-Chase moved for the adoption of the approval of the board minutes of the April 24, 2020 Regular Meeting. Ms. Hollister seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Dave Barry, Susan Busenbark, Michael Campbell, Halle Cox, Gwen Gregory, Dianne Hollister, Sarah McHone-Chase, Paul Mills, Jenna Nemec-Louise, Scott Pointon, Nadia Sheikh, Tom Stagg. Nays: none.

6.2 RAILS Financial Report, April 2020

The April 30, 2020 unassigned General Fund (\$14.8 million) cash and investment balances would fund an estimated 15.7 months of operations. Total cash and investment balances decreased \$1.5 million from the March 31, 2020 balances as RAILS received no Area and Per

Capita (APC) grant payments in April. Investment Income continues to decline due to declining interest rates. Delivery department expenditures were below budget primarily from lower

6.3 Approval of Expenditures, April 2020 –Jim Kregor

Mr. Pointon moved for the approval of the check voucher/register for April 2020 in the amount of \$ 1,523,409.24. Mr. Campbell seconded and a roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Dave Barry, Susan Busenbark, Michael Campbell, Halle Cox, Gwen Gregory, Dianne Hollister, Sarah McHone-Chase, Paul Mills, Jenna Nemecek-Louise, Scott Pointon, Nadia Sheikh, Tom Stagg.
Nays: none

7. REPORTS

7.1 Report from the RAILS President

Mr. Mills said that RAILS, ILA and Heartland sponsored the “Everything Library Trustees Need to Know During COVID -19” webinar last Thursday. It was very informative, and speakers included an HR expert, a financial expert and trustees speaking about how they are dealing with the issues in their libraries.

7.2 RAILS Board Committee Reports

7.2.1 Advocacy Committee

Mr. Campbell reported that the committee met and are focusing on moving forward ideas such as a virtual legislative day modeled after a Massachusetts program. Ms. Nemecek-Loise will push the “My Librarian Is ...” campaign as a member for the AISLE board and work with RAILS on CE on training for school librarians with a focus on “getting a seat at the table”. Ms. McHone-Chase will report at the June meeting on the best ways for RAILS to reach academic libraries to share the talking points.

7.2.2 Consortia Committee

The Committee has not met.

7.2.3 Executive Committee

The Committee has not met.

7.2.4 Policy Committee

The Committee has not met.

7.2.5 Resource Sharing Committee

The Committee has not met.

7.2.6 Universal Service Committee - Sue Busenbark

Ms. Busenbark said the committee has not met, but asked if any board member libraries had issued any non-resident cards during the pandemic. Mr. Campbell said the Fox River Grove library has issued one that he knew of. Ms Brennan said there is also a bill, filed by Senator Laura Murphy, that would provide cards for students living below the poverty level in unincorporated areas.

7.3 RAILS Reports

7.3.1 RAILS Monthly Report

Ms. Brennan reported that RAILS is also leading meetings of midwest library consortia from Michigan, Kansas, Missouri and other states to discuss their situations and plans. There is a large gamut of activities: a county in Minnesota operating curbside since April, May openings for libraries in North Carolina; the Missouri state library is requiring a minimum of 48 hours quarantine for materials. RAILS is conducting an extensive delivery

survey to members asking about their reopening plans. We will be ready for delivery when the members are ready, but will give all members a two week notice prior to starting delivery. Ms. Harris said the results of the survey will be tied to delivery routes and consortia. The first run will be to return materials to the home library, then perhaps run a beta test for open libraries then opt others in as they start to open. Mr. Pointon said the Pinnacle consortium would be happy to be that beta test.

Ms. Brennan reported the Nominating committee met to verify the election results and develop a slate of officers that will be presented at the June meeting. Successful candidates for 2021 election:

Public Library Trustees: Becky Spratford, La Grange Public Library; Alex Vancina, New Lenox Public Library District, and Elizabeth Tepen, Silvis Public Library; Gwen Gregory, University of Illinois at Chicago, was re-elected to the Academic Library Seat, and Jenna Nemecek-Loise, North Shore Country Day School was re-elected to the School Library seat. Kristine Kenney from the Poplar Creek Public Library District was elected to fill the vacancy of the At Large Seat. All terms are for July 2020-June 2023, with the exception of Ms. Kenney's term, which ends June 2022. Unfortunately, current board member Nadia Sheikh was not re-elected. She will be missed.

7.4 Illinois State Library Report

Ms. Egan reported that the General Assembly is in session and the State Library is staged as a viewing area for the Senate budget hearings. She said that libraries and literacy are still in the proposed budget at the requested level. ISL staff will be back in the office June 1st and following social distancing rules. The Public library per capita grants are being processed and the Live and Learn Construction Grant recipients will be announced soon. Talking books services staff has been working by getting materials from other states.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1 System Area Per Capita Grant Application

Ms. Brennan said the RAILS submits the System Area Per Capita Grant Application annually which outlines the activities of RAILS for the upcoming year. She said although there are no wage and salary increases included in the budget as proposed, they may be added later when state funding is clear. We are also assuming that there will probably be further discussion and probably a budget amendment needed in the future, as items such as vehicle purchases are deferred until further budget and funding information is received.

Mr. Barry made a motion to approve the System Area Per Capita Grant Application and submit it to the State Library. Ms. Cox seconded and a roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Dave Barry, Susan Busenbark, Michael Campbell, Halle Cox, Gwen Gregory, Dianne Hollister, Sarah McHone-Chase, Paul Mills, Jenna Nemecek-Louise, Scott Pointon, Nadia Sheikh, Tom Stagg. Nays: none

9. AGENDA BUILDING FOR THE NEXT RAILS BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held via zoom, on Friday, June 19, 2020 but please check your RAILS email for updated information. Included on the agenda will be the draft RAILS Board meeting schedule for FY 2021, presentation of the proposed slate of officers for FY2021, and

the Executive Director Goals for FY 2021. Newly elected board members will also be invited to our June meeting.

10. CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Mills announced the Board will move into closed session to discuss matters pertaining to personnel, as per *5 Illinois Compiled Statutes*, chapter 120, paragraph 2, section (c) 1, which states: *Exceptions. A public body may hold closed meetings to consider the following subjects: The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.*

Mr. Pointon moved to go into closed session to discuss the evaluation of the Executive Director. Ms. Hollister seconded and a roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Dave Barry, Susan Busenbark, Michael Campbell, Halle Cox, Gwen Gregory, Dianne Hollister, Sarah McHone-Chase, Paul Mills, Jenna Nemec-Louise, Scott Pointon, Nadia Sheikh, Tom Stagg. Nays: none

Mr. Mills stated that the RAILS board would move into closed session. Live stream will stop, and will then resume when we move out of closed session. Non-board member zoom meeting participants will be moved in a “waiting room” until the board votes to move out of closed session.

11. ACTIONS TO FOLLOW-UP TO CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Pointon moved that when the rest of the RAILS staff is eligible for salary and wage increases based on the FY21 budget and funding, Ms. Brennan’s salary will be increased to the amount of \$160,500. Ms. Cox seconded and roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Dave Barry, Susan Busenbark, Michael Campbell, Halle Cox, Gwen Gregory, Dianne Hollister, Sarah McHone-Chase, Paul Mills, Jenna Nemec-Loise, Scott Pointon, Nadia Sheikh, Tom Stagg. Nays: none

12. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.