

VIRTUAL MEETING
RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 15, 2020 | 10:00 a.m.

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MINUTES

1. Welcome
Mr. Campbell, Advocacy chairperson, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.
2. Designation of Minute Taker—Stacy Palmisano
3. Roll Call of Members
Committee members in attendance via Zoom: Michael Campbell, Sarah McHone-Chase, Jenna Nemec-Loise, Thomas Stagg
4. Introductions, Guests, and Announcements
Guests in attendance via Zoom:
RAILS staff - Deirdre Brennan, Anna Duff, Monica Harris, Stacy Palmisano, Anne Slaughter, Mary Witt
5. Public Comment
No public comments
6. Adoption of the Agenda
Ms. Nemec-Loise moved, and Ms. McHone-Chase seconded, that

THE RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE AGENDA BE ADOPTED.

The motion carried.
7. Approval of the Minutes of the May 20, 2020 RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting
Ms. McHone-Chase moved, and Mr. Stagg seconded, that

THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 20, 2020 RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MINUTES BE APPROVED.

The motion carried.
8. Discussion of progress on advocacy efforts
 - a. Report on possible Virtual Illinois Legislature webinar
Ms. Brennan reported that the Massachusetts Library Association (MLA) held several Virtual Legislative Days through a tool called Engage, which is available for free from ALA. They reported high attendance from library supporters and the supporters were urged to contact their state legislators resulting in over 700 responses. The possible Illinois Virtual Legislature

webinar was discussed at the ILA Advocacy committee meeting on June 1 by Ms. Brennan. The co-chairs of the committee were very interested in the idea and will be looking into the details. Ms. Brennan will continue the conversation with the ILA Advocacy committee and has offered RAILS support. A Virtual Legislature webinar is not seen as a preplacement to the ILA Legislature Meet-Ups but as an additional option to provide library advocacy. Mr. Campbell plans to attend a future ILA Advocacy meeting to discuss the topic with the committee. Ms. Nemece-Loise was familiar with the Engage software and reported that state representative contact information is easily available and a customizable message can be created quickly. Mr. Stagg mentioned the importance of offering the virtual day due to the fact that in the next year there will be new state representatives.

b. Report on broadband connectivity and the Illinois State Library

Ms. Brennan reported that she had a conversation with Greg McCormick, Director of the Illinois State Library in which Mr. McCormick confirmed that there is money allocated for broadband connectivity in the new FY2021 budget. As part of the budget there is a large capital bill that includes money to extend broadband access. The bill is high on the list to be approved by the general assembly.

c. Report on the Illinois Broadband Advisory Council

Ms. Slaughter, RAILS Director of Technology Services, reported that the capital bill included in the FY2021 budget for broadband expansion will fund the competitive grants through the Next Illinois Initiative. Ms. Slaughter is the ILA representative on the Broadband Advisory Council. The council is a 25 member advisory body with legislators and representatives from internet service providers, special interest groups, the Illinois Department of Aging and the Department of Health and Family Services. The committee meets quarterly and receives updates on the activities of the Office of Broadband. The Office of Broadband was formed by the Connect Illinois Initiative that was signed into law by then Governor Bruce Rauner and implemented by Governor Pritzker. The goal is to shore up Illinois' broadband infrastructure through \$400 million dollars in grants to providers that will increase capacity and to also fund \$20 million dollars in upgrades to the Illinois Century Network (ICN). The ICN provides broadband to public entities such as schools and libraries and will expand access at no cost. The first round of grants is currently being reviewed. The Office of Broadband will also have grants focusing on digital literacy and adoption to support the broadband work throughout the state. For more information visit the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity website and the Office of Broadband (<https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/ConnectIllinois/Pages/ILOfficeofBroadband.aspx>). Within the council there was a set of working groups such as broadband and economic development, telehealth and education to help guide the grant making. Net neutrality protections has been on the ILA agenda as a legislative priority for a number of years, although currently there is not any pending legislation in front of the Illinois legislature regarding net neutrality. Ms. Slaughter recommended to the committee that if anyone is interested in following the issues around broadband access to subscribe to the email newsletter from the Benton Institute for Broadband & Society at <https://www.benton.org/>.

d. Report on ways to reach academic librarians

Ms. McHone-Chase discussed the importance of communication between academic libraries within the state and the partnerships that are formed. The focus right now for academic libraries is on the status of delivery and receiving frequent delivery service updates is helpful. Academic libraries are working on how to return to some state of normal and what that looks like. A way to support academic libraries is to facilitate the conversation of what other academic libraries in the state are doing in regards to their COVID-19 response. This could be a webinar or

a list serve or a clearinghouse of information including contact information on what academic libraries are already doing in their response to the pandemic. Ms. Witt, RAILS Communications Director, mentioned that the Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries (IACRL) is currently working on a program with Dan Bostrom, RAILS Member Engagement Manager, that might be the type of programing Ms. McHone-Chase is suggesting. Ms. Witt will contact Mr. Bostrom and will forward the details to Ms. McHone-Chase. Ms. McHone-Chase is interested in what online instruction looks like from the academic library point of view and what a library can do to support the college. There was a discussion on academic library advocacy which as a concept is a foreign subject for most academic libraries because of a perceived conflict of interest within the university. Ms. Brennan discussed that library advocacy is not just talking with state legislators but it is also the elevator speech on what libraries do, which is the reason for the My Library Is.. talking points. Next year the My Library Is.. theme is going to focus on how anyone can advocate on a day to day level. Ms. Witt mentioned that ILA has a Bigger than a Building campaign that has a component on academic libraries that focuses on what libraries are doing during COVID-19.

Mr. Stagg asked the committee if there were any good LinkedIn organizations to follow that he can share with colleagues. LinkedIn was discussed as a great way to leverage networking and learning. Mr. Stagg mentioned that he is seeing more academics on LinkedIn. Ms. Brennan will discuss LinkedIn with some of the RAILS staff and report back to the committee.

9. Discussion of July meeting date

Ms. Palmisano will send a Doodle poll to the committee to select the July meeting date.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Advocacy Committee Members:

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