

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD MEETING

Friday, June 19, 2020 | 1:00 PM

Draft Minutes

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Paul Mills, President
Paul Mills, President of the RAILS Board called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. He read the following: The Governor issued Executive Order 2020-07 in March (which has been extended from time to time), since that time, Illinois public bodies have been able to meet "remotely" due to the COVID-19 pandemic without having a physical quorum of the body present at the meeting place. The Governor's Executive Order suspended the in-person quorum requirement of the OMA and also modified the reasons for which a member can attend a meeting remotely. The Governor's most recent extension of his Executive Order stated that this authorization would terminate when the General Assembly enacted legislation to authorize remote meetings.
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, Percy Harris, Dianne Hollister, Sarah McHone-Chase, Paul Mills, Jenna Nemec-Loise, Scott Pointon, Dee Runnels, Nadia Sheikh, Thomas Stagg
Absent: none.
3. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
RAILS Staff via zoom: Deirdre Brennan, Monica Harris, Jim Kregor, Mark Hatch, Anne Slaughter, Mary Witt, Joe Filapek, Dan Bostrom, Ryan Hebel, Jody Rubel, Emily Fister;
Guests via zoom: Alex Vancina, Karen Egan-Illinois State Library
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS
There were no public comments from attendees nor were any submitted via email prior to the meeting.
5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
Mr. Barry moved for the adoption of the agenda. Ms. Sheikh seconded and a roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Dave Barry, Susan Busenbark, Michael Campbell, Halle Cox, Gwen Gregory, Percy Harris, Dianne Hollister, Sarah McHone-Chase, Paul Mills, Jenna Nemec-Loise, Scott Pointon, Dee Runnels, Nadia Sheikh, Tom Stagg. Nays: none
6. APPROVAL OF RAILS BOARD MINUTES, FINANCIAL REPORTS AND EXPENDITURES
 - 6.1.1 RAILS Board Minutes of May 22, 2020 Regular Meeting
Mr. Campbell moved for the approval of the Minutes of the May 22 2020 regular board meeting. Ms. McHone-Chase seconded and a roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Dave Barry, Susan Busenbark, Michael Campbell, Halle Cox, Gwen Gregory, Percy Harris, Dianne Hollister, Sarah McHone-Chase, Paul Mills, Jenna Nemec-Loise, Scott Pointon, Dee Runnels, Nadia Sheikh, Tom Stagg. Nays: none

6.1.2 RAILS Board Minutes of May 22, 2020 Closed Session

Mr. Barry moved for the approval of the Minutes of the May 22 2020 closed session meeting. Ms. Sheikh seconded and a roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Dave Barry, Susan Busenbark, Michael Campbell, Halle Cox, Gwen Gregory, Percy Harris, Dianne Hollister, Sarah McHone-Chase, Paul Mills, Jenna Nemece-Loise, Scott Pointon, Dee Runnels, Nadia Sheikh, Tom Stagg. Nays: none

6.2 RAILS Financial Report

Mr. Kregor reported RAILS Total General Fund revenues through May were \$2,571,716 below budget primarily from lower APC Grant revenues with no payments received since January 9. Investment Income for July 2019 was \$38,259, but by May 2020 monthly income had declined to \$10,288 due to the Federal Reserve actions in which it dramatically reduced interest rates in reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic. Total General Fund expenditures are \$997,475 below budget due primarily to lower Contractual Services (\$409,470), Personnel (\$188,886), Library Materials (\$117,374), and Vehicle Expenses, (\$100,547). Due to COVID-19 related meeting and conference cancellations, we expect meeting and travel expenditures to decline further from budgeted amounts. Through May, travel expenditures were \$52,583 below budget.

6.3 Approval of Expenditures – May, 2020

Mr. Pointon moved for the approval of the expenditures for May 2020 in the amount of \$828,035.86. Mr. Barry seconded and a roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Dave Barry, Susan Busenbark, Michael Campbell, Halle Cox, Gwen Gregory, Percy Harris, Dianne Hollister, Sarah McHone-Chase, Paul Mills, Jenna Nemece-Loise, Scott Pointon, Dee Runnels, Nadia Sheikh, Tom Stagg. Nays: none

7. REPORTS

7.1 Report from the RAILS President

Mr. Mills announced that three board members Dave Barry, Dee Runnels and Nadia Sheikh, all would be leaving the RAILS Board. Each were presented with a plaque and Mr. Mills thanked them for their services and for their leadership and guidance throughout their terms. Mr. Mills said he has enjoyed his term as President of the RAILS board and thanked the RAILS Board and Staff for their support.

7.2 RAILS Board Committee Reports-Committee Chairs

7.2.1 Advocacy Committee

Mr. Campbell reported that the committee met and were discussing supporting efforts of a Virtual Legislative webinar with the Illinois Library Association. The webinar would be through a service called Engage, and would be in addition to the Legislative Meet-Ups. There is a large capital bill that includes money allocated to extend broadband connectivity in the new FY2021 budget. They also discussed improved advocacy for Academic libraries.

7.2.2 Consortia Committee

The committee did not meet.

7.2.3 Executive Committee

The committee did not meet.

7.2.4 Nominating Committee

Ms. Buhr reported that the Nominating Committee of herself, Jay Kasten, Mary Jo Matousek, and Ashtin Trimble met a few times and at their last meeting met to discuss a slate of officers. The following slate was presented: Gwen Gregory, President; Michael Campbell, Vice President; Sarah McHone-Chase, Secretary; and Tom Stagg, Treasurer. The vote for the slate will take place at the July 24th board meeting when the new board members are sworn in. Nominations from the floor will be taken at that time.

7.2.5 Policy Committee

The committee has not met.

7.2.6 Resource Sharing Committee

The committee has not met.

7.2.7 Universal Service Committee

The committee has not met.

7.3 RAILS Reports

7.3.1 RAILS Monthly Report

Ms. Brennan reiterated her thanks to the outgoing board members. She welcomed incoming board member Alex Vancina to the meeting as well. Delivery resumed June 18th for the materials that had been stored in delivery hubs. Mr. Mills and Mr. Pointon did some deliveries for the Pinnacle Library group, and both stated they have a new and deeper appreciation for the job of RAILS delivery drivers. The first full delivery run is next Thursday, June 25. She said there is a lot of work going on at RAILS and our libraries; Ms. Heath is negotiating more deals for members relating to curbside discounts; "My library is ..." campaign and work on the census continues. The full plan to resume delivery is included in the board packet.

Ms. Brennan welcomed comments on the issue and her draft document: RAILS responsibilities to build a better society. She believes that RAILS cannot stay silent on the issue of equity of access. Mr. Pointon said the he believes most RAILS libraries will want to participate and we can help by shedding light on how libraries can help in ways that they have not thought of. Currently in his library they are looking at ways to avoid confrontations between police and patrons and how to de-escalate without needing to call police. They discussed RAILS helping libraries with grants and training; supporting human library initiatives and best practices for implementation; legalities, toolkits to develop faster and more complete training; guidance for new library school graduates on issues faced in the workplace; diversity in library schools, hiring, and early entry positions; libraries as re-educating all regarding diversity and diverse populations; how to advocate for diversity and how to be teachable. RAILS can develop a practical tool for members on methodology to look for bias in policies and procedures.

Everything needs to be on the table. Perhaps the requirement for a Master's Degree is a barrier to diversity. To help with diversity of profession, we must question things we

take for granted. Ms. Brennan said RAILS will start in-house with equity, diversity and inclusion training for staff. Changes needs to be real fundamental changes that can be seen. Ms. McHone-Chase said she has become aware of the phrase “do not make me responsible for your knowledge”, in other words do not look for answers from specific individuals when the knowledge is already out in the world. All agreed that the role of RAILS is to foster true conversation.

Ms. Runnels left the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

7.4 Illinois State Library Report:

Ms. Egan reported that the State Library has opened to the public using the state guidelines and precautions, with hand sanitizer, masks, plastic barriers at the reference and circulation desks and all employees have their temperature taken every morning upon entering the building. All remaining 2020 grant programs have been processed and all per capita grant recipients should have received award letters. The public library per capita grant deadline is extended to December 31.

The system APC FY21 grant applications have been reviewed and awards are coming soon with the advice to move forward with caution. Tax revenues are down, and we can expect delays in payments. The governor has signed the FY21 budget and the state library is moving forward with no modifications of our budget. Direct appropriations to libraries were included in the budget and they are in the process of contacting those libraries. CARES Act opportunities are soon to be announced as part of the FY21 budget, with guidance from IMLS, with funding for PPE, technology, connectivity and digital resources.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 RAILS Board meeting schedule for FY 2021

Ms. Busenbark moved for the approval of Friday, July 24, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. as the date and time for our next RAILS board meeting. Ms. Hollister seconded and a roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Dave Barry, Susan Busenbark, Michael Campbell, Halle Cox, Gwen Gregory, Percy Harris, Dianne Hollister, Sarah McHone-Chase, Paul Mills, Jenna Nemec-Loise, Scott Pointon, Dee Runnels, Nadia Sheikh, Tom Stagg. Nays: none
The remainder of the calendar will be approved at the July meeting.

8.2 Executive Director Goals FY 2021

The agenda states that action is requested for this item, but in fact approval will be at the July meeting. It was suggested that in addition to societal issues, more weight is given to pandemic issues, sustainability, advocacy, universal service, multi-type work and diversity.

8.3 Membership Changes

Mr. Bostrom reported that he had spoken a few times with the academic library, the Institute for Clinical Social Work in Chicago, and did a virtual site visit. They are interested in RAILS deals and discounts and CE opportunities. Ms. McHone-Chase moved that the Institute for Clinical Social Work in Chicago be accepted as a new RAILS member and that recommendation be forwarded to the State Library for full approval. Ms. Cox seconded and a roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Dave Barry, Susan Busenbark, Michael Campbell, Halle

Cox, Gwen Gregory, Percy Harris, Dianne Hollister, Sarah McHone-Chase, Paul Mills, Jenna Nemec-Loise, Scott Pointon, Dee Runnels, 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, July 24, 2020 at 1 pm. Please check your RAILS email for updated information. Agenda items will include swearing in of new board members, election of board officers, discussion and approval of revised compensation structure, approval of board meeting calendar and the Executive Director goals.

10. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.