

VIRTUAL MEETING
RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 27, 2020 | 10:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting to attend

<https://railslibraries.zoom.us/j/93099966594?pwd=N3pTYS85L0x1NnFmamltT0x6Wk9yZz09>

Meeting ID: 930 9996 6594

Passcode: 540676

Dial in number: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

MINUTES

1. Welcome
Mr. Campbell, Advocacy chairperson, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:01 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, , Thomas Stagg
Absent: Percy Harris, Jenna Nemec-Loise
4. Introductions, Guests, and Announcements
Guests in attendance via Zoom:
RAILS staff - Deirdre Brennan, Monica Harris, Stacy Palmisano, Mary Witt
5. Public Comment via Zoom
No public comments
6. Adoption of the Agenda
Sarah McHone-Chase moved, and Thomas Stagg seconded, that

THE RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE AGENDA BE ADOPTED.

The motion carried. Roll call was taken: Ayes: Michael Campbell, Sarah McHone-Chase, and Thomas Stagg. Nays: none.
7. Approval of the Minutes of the July 15, 2020 RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting
Thomas Stagg moved, and Sarah McHone-Chase seconded, that

THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 15, 2020 RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MINUTES BE APPROVED.

The motion carried. Roll call was taken: Ayes: Michael Campbell, Sarah McHone-Chase, and Thomas Stagg. Nays: none.
8. Discussion of progress on advocacy efforts
 - a. ILA Trustee Forum
Ms. Brennan reported that she spoke with Diane Foote, ILA Executive Director, and had a conversation regarding the ILA Library Trustee Forum. At this time there are no workshops

planned for the upcoming year for the Trustee Forum. Ms. Brennan also reached out to Kathy Caudill the current Manager of the ILA Illinois Trustee Forum but did not hear back from her. The forum has recently created a newsletter called the Trusty Trustee. All RAILS Board members have been signed up to receive the newsletter. Mr. Stagg reported that he attended the last ILA Trustee Forum meeting and learned that they are interested in expanding the membership. The meeting information needs to be more easily accessible so that trustees are aware of the meetings and can attend. Mr. Stagg will send a copy of the newsletter to Ms. Palmisano and she will forward the newsletter to the committee. The committee discussed that the Trustee Forum meetings and the newsletter needs to be communicated better to library trustees.

Mr. Campbell mentioned how the RAILS press release announcing him as the new president of the RAILS Board started conversations about RAILS. Mr. Stagg also shared a conversation that he had with a local grade school teacher and her concerns with getting her students books during remote learning and Mr. Stagg told her about BiblioBoard. Both conversations show the importance of educating library trustees so that they can advocate for libraries and library services. Getting the message out to library trustees through press releases and newsletters is a good way to keep them informed.

Ms. Brennan will continue to talk with Diane Foote about the ILA Illinois Trustee Forum and to find ways to help make the meetings more accessible to library trustees. Mr. Stagg suggested that RAILS could share some resources for the Trusty Trustee newsletter.

Ms. Brennan shared with the committee that RAILS is getting a grant from the Illinois State Library to expand K-12 resources in e-Read Illinois to include popular and educational materials. The committee discussed the value of the public library in offering e-resources during the pandemic when public schools are not open and that there is a need to advocate this message. A press release or a full story published on this topic would be very beneficial. Ms. Brennan will discuss this within RAILS regarding ways to communicate that story and will report back to the committee.

b. Discuss session at ILA

The committee discussed the ILA Virtual Conference that will be held in October and the session which the committee will present at the conference. The session will focus on how librarians can advocate for their libraries. Mr. Campbell volunteered to moderate the session, Ms. McHone-Chase will present on behalf of an academic librarian and Ms. Nemecek-Loise will present on behalf of a school librarian. A public librarian and a special librarian is needed to add to the presenter list. Ms. Brennan will send the outline of the session to the committee for review and the focus for the September meeting will be the planning of the session.

Ms. Brennan gave the committee an update in regards to the discussion from the August committee meeting on the history of AISLE once being part of ILA. There is no clear reason as to why the two organizations separated. Diane Foote, ILA Executive Director, is interested in having AISLE become a part of ILA again and would encourage discussions. Ms. Brennan will continue to work on the collaboration.

9. Discussion of September meeting date

Ms. Palmisano will send out a doodle poll for September meeting dates that are early in the month to allow enough time to plan the ILA Virtual Conference session.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Advocacy Committee Members:

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