

RAILS RESOURCE SHARING COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, September 21, 2020 | 10:00 a.m.
RAILS Burr Ridge Service Center

MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome and Call to Order
Ms. Charm Ruhnke, Resource Sharing Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
2. Designation of Minute Taker
Ms. Anna Duff, RAILS Administrative Assistant, was designated minute taker.
3. Roll Call of Members
RAILS Burr Ridge: Jeanne Modelski
RAILS East Peoria: Dianne Hollister
Zoom: Keith Barlog, Kristine Kenney, Ryan Livergood, Michelle Roubal, Charm Ruhnke, Sia Paganis
Absent: Brian Chase, Andy Allen
4. Introductions of Guests; Announcements
Zoom: Deirdre Brennan, Anna Duff, Mark Hatch, Monica Harris, Leila Heath
 - a. Request 2 year reappointments for Andy Allen, Ryan Livergood, Michelle Roubal, and Charm Ruhnke
Ms. Dianne Hollister moved and Ms. Jeanne Modelski seconded that Andy Allen, Ryan Livergood, Michelle Roubal, and Charm Ruhnke be Reappointed for Two Year Terms. The motion carried. Roll call was taken: Ayes: Keith Barlog, Jean Modelski, Dianne Hollister, Kristine Kenney, Ryan Livergood, Michelle Roubal, Charm Ruhnke. Nays: none.
5. Public Comment
There were no public comments.
6. Adoption of the Agenda
Ms. Michelle Roubal moved and Ms. Diane Hollister seconded that the RAILS Resource Sharing Committee adopt the September 21, 2020 Agenda as presented. The motion carried. Roll call was taken: Ayes: Keith Barlog, Jean Modelski, Dianne Hollister, Kristine Kenney, Ryan Livergood, Michelle Roubal, Charm Ruhnke. Nays: none.
7. Approval of Minutes of the March 9, 2020 Resource Sharing Committee Meeting
Ms. Jeanne Modelski moved and Ms. Diane Hollister seconded that the RAILS Resource Sharing Committee approve the March 9, 2020 minutes as presented. The motion carried. Roll call was taken: Ayes: Keith Barlog, Jean Modelski, Dianne Hollister, Kristine Kenney, Ryan Livergood, Michelle Roubal, Charm Ruhnke. Nays: none.
8. Old Business
 - a. Review/revise committee goals for FY 2020
Ms. Ruhnke announced as discussed at the March 2020 meeting, the top three chosen

goals were 1. Increase a statewide culture of resource sharing, 2. Improve awareness of resource sharing, and 3. Provide services to the unserved.

It was agreed that the goals remain appropriate post pandemic. Ma. Paganis joined at 10:16 a.m. Ms. Roubal noted there is room for a concentrated program of promotion in the future. It was stated that the pandemic highlighted the issue of the unserved, due to the amount of people without internet in reliance on library services.

Mr. Campbell joined the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

9. New Business

a. State of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Resource Sharing

Ms. Harris reported that RAILS offers a variety of resources and updates on the RAILS website's PULSE page under COVID-19. She said RAILS created an online tool where libraries can upload what is happening in their own libraries. Ms. Harris explained this was a result of many individual libraries expressing a need for some way to determine what services are offered in libraries geographically surrounding them. Ms. Harris said RAILS encourages libraries to keep the information updated.

Mr. Hatch reported that RAILS asked libraries interested in receiving delivery to opt in. So far 529 libraries opted in, about 86% of pre-pandemic participation. Mr. Hatch has had managers reach out to libraries that did not respond. Most of those have been schools that have not reopened. Mr. Hatch said delivery counts have been down at approximately 6.7 million items, as opposed to the 9 million items per year delivered previous to the closures. He said RAILS created a manual document, in place of the pre-pandemic fine count, that each service center manager fills out based on the number of containers they receive on a daily basis. Mr. Hatch said RAILS will continue to reach out to the nonresponsive libraries.

b. eRead and Electronic Resources Update

Ms. Leila Heath reported that libraries saw a spike in e-resources when the pandemic began. In order to give libraries a way to talk about that with their stakeholders, RAILS did a survey among several of the e-content consortia in RAILS including Bibliotheca, Baker and Taylor, and Overdrive. The results showcased this spike in e-resource use and were posted via Opengov to give libraries a story of what happened when libraries closed their physical buildings. RAILS utilized funding from the census count to purchase over 500 titles for the Biblioboard state platform. The eRead renewal period initially saw 420 libraries renew, with an additional 50 new libraries signed up. She said 49 out of the 50 new joiners were schools. She accredited this increase to the pandemic and said it has made e-resources more apparent to libraries. RAILS recently received word about a grant through the Illinois State Library, funded in part by the CARES Act to expand digital access. It is for \$100-125,000 for 4,000 eRead books. Ms. Heath said she will be getting more details out about that once the grant has been submitted.

Ms. Heath said Explore More Illinois has been temporarily suspended due to the pandemic. In the meantime, she asked committee members to encourage libraries to sign up for the program since the sign up process takes time. She explained that the

service is free for libraries and statewide. She reported that Ms. Jessica Barnes, Special Projects Librarian, at RAILS is working on Career Online High School (COHS), a resource that allows people over twenty-one to get their high school degree for free online. She said the vendor SWANK is working with RAILS to bring public libraries into the RAILS Group Purchase. Ms. Heath encouraged everyone to check the RAILS discount page for up-to-date deals.

c. Universal service and Cards for Kids Update

Ms. Brennan said the Cards for Kids Act was passed by the Illinois State Legislature. It is a mandate that allows minors or students in families whose income falls below the USDA's established poverty level to procure cards at their local library if the library is participating in the nonresident program. She relayed that RAILS suggested to the ILA Public Policy Committee that a broader law or bill be put forward that would not be a mandate, but would allow local boards to waive the library fee for minor children at any income level. The Illinois State Library is making new rules for an e-resources card for nonresidents to use e-resources of the local public library. Ms. Brennan said RAILS is interested in the movement to file legislation that makes it easier for public libraries to merge into one district. This would help libraries facing serious budget issues and cover more unserved areas.

Ms. Paganis left the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

10. Reports

a. Resource Sharing Committee Chair

Ms. Ruhnke had no news to report.

b. RAILS report

Ms. Harris called attention to deals and discounts that are now available. She stated some in particular focus on pandemic issues, such as PPE and curbside practices. She relayed RAILS is working with ICOLC (International Coalition of Library Consortia) about the pricing differences with OCLC. ICOLC is looking into those price differences and having conversations with OCLC. RAILS has met with several consortia, both Midwestern and national. Ms. Brennan continues to work on the REALM project for Covid-19. Ms. Ruhnke expressed her appreciation for the REALM work that has helped library directors make decisions.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.