

VIRTUAL MEETING
RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 14, 2021 | 3:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Welcome

Ms. Nemec-Loise, Advocacy chairperson, greeted members and called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Ms. Nemec-Loise read the following: In accordance with the Government Emergency Administrative Act PA100-0640, the RAILS Board of Directors finds an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent and believes it is in the best interest of RAILS to hold a virtual meeting to perform essential business. This meeting will be recorded as per the statutory requirements.

2. Roll Call of Members

Ms. Goyer called roll of the RAILS Board Advocacy Committee.

Committee members in attendance via Zoom: Percy Harris, Sarah McHone-Chase (due to technical difficulty rejoined at 3:09 p.m.), Jenna Nemec-Loise, Thomas Stagg

3. Introductions of Guests and Announcements

Guests in attendance via Zoom: Deirdre Brennan, Monica Harris, Mary Witt

Guests in attendance in Burr Ridge: Anna Duff, Karen Goyer, Ryan Hebel (3:06 p.m.)

4. Public Comment Announcements

4.1. Videoconference sites

There were no public comments submitted.

4.1.1. RAILS- Burr Ridge

There were no comments.

5. Adoption of the Agenda

Thomas Stagg moved and Percy Harris seconded, that

THE RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE AGENDA BE ADOPTED.

The motion carried. Roll call was taken: Ayes: Percy Harris, Sarah McHone-Chase, Jenna Nemec-Loise, and Thomas Stagg. Nays: none.

6. Approval of the Minutes of the December 9, 2020 RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting

Thomas Stagg moved, and Percy Harris seconded, that

THE RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE DECEMBER 9, 2020 MINUTES BE APPROVED.

The motion carried. Roll call was taken: Ayes: Percy Harris, Sarah McHone-Chase, Jenna Nemec-Loise, and Thomas Stagg. Nays: none.

7. Discussion of Progress on Advocacy Efforts and Topics

7.1. Follow up on advocacy efforts for specialized libraries

Ms. Nemec-Loise read aloud a draft of a post written by Halle Cox for the RAILS and SLA (Special Libraries Association) listservs to promote legislative advocacy to special libraries. In

the post, Ms. Cox shared how legislative advocacy committee work resulted in a legislative change that provided funding for law libraries. The committee suggested changes to the draft: the title of committee be changed to the RAILS Board Advocacy, add contact information and links for more information, and Ms. Witt suggested the post include action steps. The committee liked the passionate tone of the message and appreciated the personal story. Mr. Stagg recommended Laura Turner, librarian at Caterpillar, Inc., be approached to promote special library advocacy in a similar way. Ms. Nemec-Loise will reach out to Ms. Turner to ask what her approach has been in her interactions with other libraries on STEM projects.

7.2. Continued discussion on partnership opportunities with school and academic librarians

Ms. Brennan shared a conversation about the role of school libraries in which Beth Tepen noted that teachers continue to insist students complete research reports. Ms. Nemec-Loise will reach out to Ms. Tepen. Ms. Brennan will reach out to Carolyn Coulter to discuss multi-type library collaboration in PrairieCat.

Ms. Nemec-Loise stated it is a good time to think ahead about how the reality might change for libraries in the future and how we might lay the groundwork for best practices for collaboration between school and academic libraries as well as different types of library partnerships. This committee has the opportunity to strike out in a new direction than other groups have done in the past.

The committee identified action steps: check in with Beth Tepen, check in with PrairieCat, reach out to Academic RAILS members, and consider presenting at a future AISLE meeting.

Ms. Brennan stated e-resources are a mutual interest among various library types. It was agreed e-resources would remain an important resource after the pandemic and deserves more conversation.

7.3. Discussion of January Trustee Forum (ILA) and trustee events

Mr. Harris and Mr. Stagg are members of the ILA Trustee Forum Board. The board will meet Saturday, January 16, 2021. There will be a discussion about the annual trustee training. Ms. Nemec-Loise thanked Mr. Harris and Mr. Stagg for their work on the Trustee Forum.

Mr. Harris is working on developing a COVID-19 webinar for libraries and is planning to set up a guest speaker to address this committee and the ILA trustee forum. Information about the COVID vaccination plan in Cook County will be shared when it becomes available. Mr. Harris stated there is an effort to designate library staff as vaccination group 1B (non-health care frontline essential workers).

The RAILS Online Roundtable: Trustee Update will take place on January 20, 2021.

Approximately 150 people have signed up for the event. This virtual roundtable serves as a way to gauge interest in virtual meetings for trustees. The format of future trustee meetings will likely be a hybrid of both virtual and in-person. The roundtable is a great addition to our networking and advocacy activities.

7.4. ILA legislative meetups

The ILA Legislative Meet-ups take place January 29 through March 5, 2021. The RAILS board members and RAILS staff plan to attend the scheduled meetups.

8. Agenda Building for Next Meeting

The committee outlined action items and discussion topics for the February 11, 2021 meeting.

Action Items:

- Reach out to Laura Turner and Beth Tepen
- Find out more about collaboration from PrairieCat

Discussion Topics:

- Figure out how future AISLE meetings facilitate conversations regarding partnerships between school and academic libraries
- Discuss common ground around e-resources
- Ideas around virtual meetups
- Report from Trustee Roundtable on January 20, 2021
- Report from ILA Trustee Forum Board meeting
- Upcoming February Legislative meetup discussion

9. Adjournment

Ms. Nemec-Loise thanked the board for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

Advocacy Committee Members:

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