

**RAILS UNIVERSAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Friday, February 5, 2021 | 2:30 p.m.

RAILS Burr Ridge and Videoconference Sites

125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527 | 630.734.5000

Join Zoom Meeting to attend: <https://railslibraries.zoom.us/j/95558845111>

Passcode: 495346

**MINUTES**

1. Welcome

Sue Busenbark, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call of Members

RAILS Burr Ridge: Becky Spratford

Zoom: Sue Busenbark, Beth Tepen, Gail Bush, Carol Medal, Lynn Stainbrook, Catherine Yanikoski, Greg McCormick, Gwen Harrison

3. Introductions of Guests and Announcements

RAILS Burr Ridge: Deirdre Brennan, Monica Harris

Zoom: Joe Filapek, Mary Witt, Anna Duff, Karen Goyer, Jennifer McIntosh, Michael Campbell, Thomas Stagg

4. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

5. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Yanikoski moved and Ms. Bush seconded that RAILS Universal Service Committee adopt the February 5, 2021 Agenda as presented. The motion carried. Roll call was taken. Ayes: Sue Busenbark, Beth Tepen, Becky Spratford, Gail Bush, Carol Medal, Lynn Stainbrook, Catherine Yanikoski, Greg McCormick, Gwen Harrison Nays: None

6. Approval of the Minutes

Ms. Medal moved and Ms. Yanikoski seconded that the RAILS Universal Service Committee approve the November 26, 2019 minutes as presented. The motion carried. Roll call was taken. Ayes: Sue Busenbark, Beth Tepen, Carol Medal, Catherine Yanikoski, Greg McCormick, Gwen Harrison Nays: None Abstentions: Becky Spratford, Gail Bush, and Lynn Stainbrook abstained.  
Minutes passed by majority.

7. Welcome New Committee Members: Beth Tepen, Becky Spratford and Gail Bush

Ms. Busenbark welcomed new Universal Services Committee Members and thanked them for joining. She also welcomed Ms. Jennifer McIntosh, Library Director of College of DuPage and RAILS Board Member, who is interested in becoming a member of the

Committee.

8. Review Committee Charge

Ms. Brennan asked if there were any suggestions for the Universal Service Committee Charge. There were no changes suggested.

9. Annual Schedule of Meetings for 2021

To meet Open Meetings Act (OMA) requirements and make meetings more easily accessible, Ms. Brennan announced the intention to formulate an annual meeting schedule. She asked members to share their availability for meeting in the chat section.

10. RAILS Pulse Page <https://www.railslibraries.info/issues>

The RAILS Pulse Page was screen shared and Ms. Brennan reviewed the Universal Services section.

11. Talking Points for Libraries

Ms. Witt presented the talking points and explained that they refer to the Cards for Kids Act and nonresident services in general. They are a result of feedback from members in response to questions from stakeholders, such as why should libraries provide services to nonresidents. Eventually these will be publicized to members and added to the RAILS Pulse Page for sharing. It was suggested that Ms. Laura Murphy, the person who instigated the legislation, be contacted in order to document the inspiration behind it.

12. Legislative Update Since Last Meeting – New law, Administrative Rules changes

Ms. Brennan said the Cards for Kids Act and Administrative Rule Revision have both passed since the committee last met.

12.1 Cards for Kids (PA 101-632)

Mr. McCormick stated the Cards for Kids legislation provides an exemption to the nonresident fee for a student wishing to get a card from a public library.

Ms. Yanikoski presented on the Library Cards for Underserved and Unserved Minors FAQ document. She said it includes best practices for libraries considering implementing the nonresident fee program.

12.2 E-Resources Card

Mr. McCormick said an administrative rule was proposed to clarify that libraries are allowed to give non-residents access to E-Resources.

12.3 Disabled Veterans' Standard Homestead Exemption

Ms. McCormick said another rule was an exemption for veterans with a certain level of disability to clarify that they are not required to pay a nonresident fee.

Discussion ensued about how to make cards affordable. It was suggested that some libraries use the tax bill formula.

### 13. Other Committee Proposals discussed at November, 2019 meeting

#### 13.1 Multiple Listing Service

Ms. Brennan shared that she has not yet been able to get library information on the Real Estate Multiple Listing Service.

#### 13.2 Library Mergers

Ms. Brennan explained that the fundamental point of the Library Mergers draft amendment was to remove a barrier for libraries that wish to merge. Concerns were brought up, such as how to merge library boards.

#### 13.3 Library Cards for Non-resident Minors

Ms. Brennan said this was a broader approach to cards for minors in which library boards could decide locally if they want to waive the nonresident fee. This would apply to all non-resident minors, not just those receiving free or reduced lunch.

#### 13.4 School Library Cards and Reciprocal Borrowing

Not discussed, deferred to next meeting.

#### 13.5 Tax Bill Formula Options

Not discussed, deferred to next meeting.

#### 13.6 Statewide Database Proposal

Ms. Brennan said the Illinois Library Association is focusing their advocacy efforts on keeping library budgets whole during this difficult year, and suggested that the RAILS Board discuss the possibility of going to a legislator and asking for sponsors. Committee members voiced enthusiasm for moving forward with the Statewide Database Proposal.

### 14. Role of Community Colleges

Ms. Bush talked about affluent areas with unserved populations. She said the village of Rosemont had passed an ordinance to cover 70% of the fee for a public library and that this approach is worth looking into. She said community colleges do not currently have per capita grants, so there are areas where perhaps community colleges could be subsidized to serve the unserved. Many residents do not know they are already paying through taxes for the services they can access at their community college in their district. It was suggested that the community college is an excellent access point for e-resources. Ms. Brennan shared she would like to get a better idea of what is going on in community colleges and Ms. McIntosh volunteered to help with a survey.

### 15. Other

Ms. Stainbrook shared that RAILS was able to work out a lower cost for career online high school scholarships.

16. Next Steps

There were no next steps discussed.

17. Future Meetings and Agenda Items

Ms. Brennan said an annual schedule will be put together based on members' availability.

18. Adjourn

Ms. Busenbark adjourned the meeting at 4:27 p.m.