

VIRTUAL MEETING
RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 13, 2021 | 3:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Welcome -Jenna Nemec-Loise, Chair

Ms. Nemec-Loise, Advocacy chairperson, greeted members and guests and called the meeting to order at 3:05 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.

2. Roll Call of Members

Telephone/Zoom: Percy Harris, Sarah McHone-Chase, Jenna Nemec-Loise, Thomas Stagg

Absent: Michael Campbell

3. Introductions of Guests and Announcements

RAILS Burr Ridge: Deirdre Brennan (*ex-officio*)

Telephone/Zoom: Karen Goyer, Monica Harris (*ex-officio*), Stacy Palmisano, Ellen Popit, Beth Tepen, Laura Turner, Joshua Short, Mary Witt (*ex-officio*)

There were no announcements.

4. Public Comment

There were no comments.

5. Adoption of the Agenda

Ms. Mc-Hone Chase moved and Mr. Harris seconded, that

THE RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE ADOPT THE MAY 13, 2021 AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

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

6. Approval of the Minutes of the April 8, 2021 RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting

Mr. Stagg moved, and Mr. Harris seconded, that

THE RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE APPROVE THE APRIL 8, 2021 MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

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

7. Approval of the RAILS Board Advocacy Committee FY22 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Mc-Hone Chase moved, and Mr. Harris seconded, that

THE RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE APPROVE THE FY2022 MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED.

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

Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of the month at 3:00 p.m.

FY2022 Meeting Schedule

- July 8, 2021
- August 12, 2021
- September 9, 2021
- October 14, 2021
- November 11, 2021
- December 9, 2021
- January 13, 2022
- February 10, 2022
- March 10, 2022
- April 14, 2022
- May 12, 2022
- June 9, 2022

8. Discussion of Progress on Advocacy Efforts and Topics

8.1. School library advocacy and collaboration – Beth Tepen

Beth Tepen discussed experiences and challenges preparing high school students with college readiness skills. Ms. Nemec-Loise asked for feedback on using crosswalking of standards as an approach to school/academic library partnership. Ms. Tepen feels the best approach is to focus on the student's perspective, letting students and teachers know librarians are available to help. High school and college librarians value programs that provide continuity of students' familiarity of the library. Ms. Nemec-Loise would like to create a portrait of a high school graduate to show how their information skills match up to what is expected in college. Ms. Turner suggested the portrait be expanded to show information skills progression beginning with school and progress through college, career and beyond. It was noted many library types are utilized throughout a person's lifetime.

8.2. Specialized library advocacy – Laura Turner

Laura Turner discussed the lack of visibility, nationally and locally, of specialized libraries in articles, library initiatives and issues, resources, and Board and committee representation. Ms. Turner suggested eRead Illinois and data are areas that RAILS put more focus on specialized libraries. Advocacy is about asking how we could include specialized libraries in the work that is done and learn more about the issues that are important to them. Specific actions toward advocacy are to include more voices of specialized librarians, education on the commonalities of specialized librarians and the unique services they can offer, feature them in events or tours of their facilities.

8.3. Continue discussion of building new advocates from non-advocates

8.3.1. Figure out how to reach those not advocating for libraries and why they are not advocates
Item was postponed to a future meeting.

8.3.2. Focus on new messages from new people in order to hear other perspectives and stories and to balance out the My Library Is . . . work and the data collection we are going to do.

Mary Witt stated the My Library Is. . . staff is currently working on highlighting specialized libraries in a blog or through video interviews. Ms. Nemece-Loise noted there is an opportunity for this committee's work to demonstrate that RAILS is committed to shifting the narrative of specialized libraries.

8.3.3. Discuss how to bring another dimension to advocacy
Item was postponed to a future meeting.

8.4. Identify American Rescue Plan Act funding for Illinois libraries and determine the amount to advocate for

Ms. Brennan stated there is no updated information on the American Rescue Plan Act funding at this time.

9. Agenda Building for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Advocacy Committee is scheduled for June 10, 2021 at 3:00 pm. Agenda items 8.3.1 and 8.3.3 will be considered for the June meeting agenda.

10. Adjournment

Ms. Nemece-Loise thanked the committee and guests for their feedback and adjourned the meeting at 4:05 pm.

Advocacy Committee Members:

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