

RAILS UNIVERSAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, June 10, 2021 | 1:00 p.m.

RAILS Burr Ridge and Videoconference Sites

125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527 | 630.734.5000

Meeting ID: 917 7929 6018 Dial-In Number: +1 312 626 6799 Passcode: 836122 Link:

<https://railslibraries.zoom.us/j/91779296018?pwd=MmMlLY1lPRGI1OXlCMFRpbmVTT1l0Zz09>

MINUTES

1. Welcome

Ms. Busenbark called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call of Members

Zoom: Sue Busenbark, Beth Tepen, Becky Spratford, Gail Bush, Carol Medal (joined at 1:10 p.m.), Lynn Stainbrook (joined at 1:10 p.m.)

Absent: Catherine Yanikoski

3. Introductions of Guests and Announcements

Zoom: Greg McCormick, Michael Campbell, Mary Witt, Stacy Palmisano, Deirdre Brennan, Monica Harris

Thomas Stagg joined via zoom at 1:04 p.m.

4. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

5. Adoption of Agenda

Gail Bush moved and Becky Spratford seconded that the RAILS Board Universal Service Committee approve the June 10, 2021 agenda as presented. The motion carried. Roll call was taken. Ayes: Beth Tepen, Becky Spratford, Gail Bush, Sue Busenbark. Nays: None.

6. Approval of the Minutes

Becky Spratford moved and Gail Bush seconded that the RAILS Board Universal Service Committee approve the February 5, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried. Roll call was taken. Ayes: Becky Spratford, Gail Bush, Sue Busenbark, Beth Tepen. Nays: None.

7. Approval of Annual Meeting Schedule

Gail Bush moved and Becky Spratford seconded that the RAILS Board Universal Service Committee approve the proposed Annual Meeting Schedule as presented. The motion carried. Roll Call was taken. Ayes: Gail Bush, Sue Busenbark, Beth Tepen, Becky Spratford. Nays: None.

8. Update on progress since last meeting

8.1 Multiple Listing Service

Ms. Bush spoke with a real estate agent in Evanston about adding library information to the multiple listing service. Her real estate contact reached out to Midwest Real Estate Data (MRED), an MLS service provider, with the suggestion of informing buyers of their library district. She likened it to the school district information. They responded by thanking her for the information and saying they will get back to her about it.

8.2 Library Mergers

Ms. Brennan said that with the assistance of Ancel Glink, RAILS put efforts towards drafting a bill to make it easier for libraries to merge into a district and include noncontiguous space around them. Ms. Brennan said that while it has not yet moved forward with ILA, it is still on their list and we plan to try again next year.

8.3 Library Cards for Non-resident Minors

Discussed under item 9.1.

8.4 School Library Cards and Reciprocal Borrowing

Mr. McCormick stated reciprocal borrowing between schools and public libraries is already permissible. Public libraries have a requirement to participate in reciprocal borrowing between any members in the system but schools do not. It was noted that some school libraries are willing to borrow but not lend because they do not want their resources out of the building. It was pointed out that getting schools to join RAILS would help expose them to the culture of resource sharing that RAILS fosters. It was added that another barrier is some school libraries don't want to take on responsibility of lost books through borrowing and intergovernmental agreements between the schools are time consuming. Ms. Brennan said she will talk to AISLE about the issue.

8.5 Tax Bill Formula Options

Ms. Brennan said libraries usually adopt the general library formula instead of the tax bill formula method. Ms. Catherine Yanikoski wants to know if there is another option in the administrative rules. Mr. McCormick said it has not come up very much but using the tax bill method can lower the cost in specific cases. Ms. Stainbrook said Rockford Public Library uses the average rather than the tax bill method but after the last meeting, she looked into it and found that many people would find an advantage. Mr. McCormick said he would follow up with Ms. Yanikoski about what her idea was for an alternative option. Ms. Medal said her library uses the tax bill formula and they do not get many nonresident cardholders. Ms. Stainbrook and Ms. Medal agreed to collaborate on the issue. Mr. McCormick pointed out the importance for Boards to look at the demographic being served; think about who will be seeking the cards and determine the fee methodology based on that knowledge.

9. Legislative Update Since Last Meeting

9.1 Cards for Kids (PA 101-632)

Mr. McCormick said the final hearing and review will be held on July 13, 2021. There will be further discussion about community eligibility provisions, the consideration of homeschooled students, and clarification on the veteran's piece for the veteran renters. He said all comments from initial parties regarding the filing have been shared with the joint committee. The rules are an explanation of how the law was intended by the legislature and include details that were lacking in the law. Discussion ensued on the background of Cards for Kids. Ms. Bush is working on scheduling a meeting with Senator Laura Murphy and asked Committee members what items she should add to the agenda. The ability of Library Boards to vote for not charging a nonresident fee to minors was brought up. Ms. Brennan said she would send the bill filed regarding this to Ms. Bush. The issue of cards for minors being used by parents was brought up. One solution was to only allow children's books to be checked out. It was suggested that is a policy issue that could be determined by individual public libraries.

9.2 E-Resources Card

The e-resources card portion is part of the same filing and serves as a clarification of the existing law. If the Library Board determines they wish to do this, it is permissible. There is no mandate in place.

9.3 Disabled Veterans' Standard Homestead Exemption

Mr. McCormick said this involves clarification on the veterans piece for veterans renters.

9.4 Statewide database proposal

Ms. Brennan provided background information on the statewide database proposal. She said it was referred to the Rules Committee and we are now waiting until the veto session. Mr. McCormick pointed out that there is another bill about this topic, filed by Representative Ford, which amends purpose of the State Library, adding to provision of electronic resources to patrons. He will forward information on that to Ms. Brennan. Ms. Stainbrook said she would bring up the statewide database topic to her local senator at their meeting next week. She added that the pandemic has really showcased the importance of online resources.

10. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) review Deirdre Brennan

The FAQ is awaiting finalization of the administrative rules.

11. Discussion of short and long term goals and strategy

Ms. Bush stated that she spoke with Brian Durham, Illinois Community College Board Executive Director, about the issue that community colleges do not receive per capita grants. They discussed community college libraries as potential hubs for people living in unserved areas. The question of whether college libraries would be required to serve the public if they received the grant was asked and Ms. Bush replied that she will look into the grant application to see about that.

Ms. Brennan said the Committee has been seeking incremental change but she would like to know if there are any larger projects that can or should be added. Discussion on public library access for all ensued. It was suggested that this is a state issue which cannot be solely solved by the library system. Mr. McCormick said he could take the issue to the executive office. He said this is an issue within the library community that would go into the transition documents for the new administration. Ms. Brennan said we should also bring it to the RAILS Board. There was discussion on working community college district by community college district to include more unserved residents. It was noted that the district library law can allow for unlimited expansion of a contiguous area; it is really what the local Library Board would determine.

12. Next Steps

- Ms. Bush will continue to work towards adding library information to the multiple listing service.
- RAILS will pursue reciprocal borrowing opportunities with libraries and members of consortia.
- Mr. McCormick will talk to Catherine about her alternative idea regarding the tax bill formula.
- Mr. McCormick will send per capital grant applications to Ms. Bush, in regards to grants for college libraries.
- Mr. McCormick will send Ms. Brennan details on the other bill regarding the statewide database.
- Ms. Bush will meet with Senator Murphy and talk about Cards for Kids.
- Ms. Brennan said she would send the bill filed regarding nonresident fees for minors to Ms. Bush.
- Ms. Spratford will check with Mike Mahoney about Bill 2071.
<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=4092&GAID=16&DocTypeID=HB&LegId=136324&SessionID=110&GA=102>
- Ms. Brennan will send everyone the statewide database proposal.
- The need for state level leadership coupled with library community involvement will be brought to the RAILS Board at their next meeting. The goal is to have the Board make a statement to encourage statewide leadership and get other library organizations (ILA, Heartland, etc.) involved. Ms. Brennan and Ms. Busenbark will work together to add it to the agenda.
- Mr. McCormick said that once the Cards for Kids final hearings on July 13 are resolved, the Illinois State Library will hold meetings with both of the library systems and their members.
- The OMA Requirement of an in-person quorum will change toward the end of June. We will have to have a physical quorum. Members don't have to be in the same public place, but a public place.

13. Future Meetings and Agenda Items

Ms. Busenbark announced that the next RAILS Board Universal Service Committee meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

14. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.