

## RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 9, 2021 | 3:00 pm

### Minutes

1. Welcome

Michael Campbell, Advocacy Committee chairperson, greeted members and guests and called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Campbell 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

*RAILS East Peoria:* Robin Helenthal, Thomas Stagg

*Telephone/Zoom:* Michael Campbell, Alice Creason, Sarah McHone-Chase

3. Introductions of Guests and Announcements

*RAILS Burr Ridge:* Karen Goyer (minute taker), Monica Harris (*ex-officio*)

*Telephone/Zoom:* Jody Rubel, Patricia Smith, Mary Witt (*ex-officio*)

There were no announcements.

4. Public Comment

There were no comments.

5. Committee Member Introductions

Monica Harris introduced the new committee members, Alice Creason and Robin Helenthal.

6. Adoption of the Agenda

Robin Helenthal moved and Thomas Stagg seconded, that

THE RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE ADOPT THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

The motion carried. Roll call was taken: Ayes: Michael Campbell, Alice Creason, Robin Helenthal, Sarah McHone-Chase, Thomas Stagg. Nays: none.

7. Approval of the Minutes of the June 10, 2021 RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting

Thomas Stagg moved, and Sarah McHone-Chase seconded, that

THE RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE APPROVE THE JUNE 10, 2021 MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

The motion carried. Roll call was taken: Ayes: Michael Campbell, Alice Creason, Robin Helenthal, Sarah McHone-Chase, Thomas Stagg. Nays: none.

8. Discussion of Progress on Advocacy Efforts and Topics

8.1. View Committee Charge

The members discussed the committee charge relating to membership representation, with a greater focus on special and school libraries. Special libraries represent a wide range of organizations. Dan Bostrom was identified as a source to help this committee determine what type of special library membership would be needed to push special libraries. RAILS is working with AISLE (Association of Illinois School Library Educators) to identify candidates to fill school membership openings on the Advocacy Committee.

8.2. Report on FY21 advocacy efforts

Mr. Campbell summarized the committee's work over the past year. Highlights include conversations with special, academic, and school librarians and a representative from AISLE on advocacy needs, the committee's work on database legislation and the Cards for Kids Act, and the presentation by committee members at the Illinois Library Association conference.

Future advocacy work could include working with library trustees, through either ILA or other efforts by RAILS (Trustee University), and advocacy toward the broadband issue for libraries and schools. It was noted the ILA Public Policy committee is looking at a proposal that would allow for expansion of broadband support from schools to public libraries. IHLS (Illinois Heartland Library System) expressed interest in collaborating with this committee in their work toward school library advocacy and student preparedness.

8.3. Discuss priorities and timeline

8.3.1 Database legislation

Monica Harris gave an update of the status of the legislation to provide funding for a statewide database. Illinois and Colorado are the only states that do not have a statewide database. The database would offer the opportunity for all residents of Illinois to have access to certain databases and provide e-resources to the unserved. A commission will be formed to make decisions on working with the funds the state designates for the project. Illinois Senator Laura Murphy supports moving the database legislation forward in January 2022.

8.3.2 Cards for Kids

Deirdre Brennan, Thomas Stagg and Gail Bush (Professor Emeritus, National Louis University) met with Senator Murphy, who introduced the Cards for Kids Act. They discussed an expansion of the act that would allow libraries to offer cards to unserved children near their area, regardless of whether they meet the Cards for Kids qualifications. The expansion is not a mandate. Libraries would choose whether to participate in the act expansion. This legislation would allow the cards to be issued without involving intergovernmental agreements, which take a lot of time and effort to maintain. The ILA Public Policy committee plans to address legislation for the statewide database, Cards for Kids expansion and library district mergers. RAILS is interested to see which of our initiatives will receive final approval from ILA to be on their committee agendas. Thomas Stagg reported on the ILA Trustee Forum meeting. The trustees are looking forward to the ILA Advocacy plan that will be released near the date of the ILA conference, October 12-14th. It will be comprised of lesson plans in three subject areas.

9. Agenda Building for Next Meeting

The next Advocacy Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 3:00 pm.

Agenda items, next steps, or follow up:

- Invite Dan Bostrom, or a special librarian, to speak about special library advocacy and committee membership recommendations
- Look at the committee charge
- Database legislation work
- Look at past and future advocacy efforts
- Consider advocacy work concerning candidates for the Illinois Secretary of State election.

10. Adjournment

Michael Campbell adjourned the meeting at 3:32 pm.