

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD MEETING

Friday, October 22, 2021 | 10:30 PM

Special Board Meeting

Minutes

1. Welcome and Call to Order
Thomas Stagg, President of the RAILS Board and called the special meeting of the RAILS board to order at 10:33 a.m.
2. Roll Call of RAILS Board Members
Fister called the roll of Board members
Burr Ridge: Halle Cox , Alice Creason, Kris Kenney, Jennifer McIntosh, Scott Pointon, Becky Spratford, Beth Tepen, Alex Vancina, Karen Voitik
East Peoria: Sue Busenbark, Robin Helenthal, Thomas Stagg
Absent: Dianne Hollister, Patricia Smith
3. Recognition of guests and announcements
Burr Ridge: Deirdre Brennan, Ryan Hebel, Jim Kregor, Sharon Swanson,
East Peoria: none
Telephone/Zoom: Monica Harris, Cindy Fesemyer, Stephanie Chase, Leila Heath, Mary Witt, Emily Fister-designated minute taker
4. Public comments
There were no public comments
5. Adoption of the Agenda
Voitik moved for the approval of the agenda. Vancina seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
6. Strategic Planning Update and Ideation
Harris reviewed the attendance for the town hall meetings and thanked board members who invited key community leaders to attend. She especially thanked RAILS staff and board members who attended multiple sessions.
6.1 Results of the first round of town hall meetings –Stephanie Chase
Chase said those who attended multiple sessions really helped with the flow and continuity of ideas. Delivery is the most beloved service that RAILS offers.

6.2 Focus group discussion- Cindy Fesemyer
Fesemyer employed an analysis method called SOAR (strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results) to gather member feedback for the RAILS strategic plan. RAILS’s strengths mentioned were delivery (especially for smaller libraries), communications such as electronic newsletters and quarterly member updates, bringing different people together, an open-minded proactive leadership team, helpful guidance during covid, service for all library types, excellent staff, CE provided for everyone, and outstanding networking.

Suggested opportunities for RAILS were taking advantage of the increased collaboration abilities that come from having a bigger voice, turning good will into funding, advocating for issues that ILA cannot, thinking beyond just collections (what is the next digital tool/resource needed?), busting silos, expanding Find More IL, and the FOIA hotline. Goals included under the aspirational thinking category were achieving universal service, funding equitably across library type and size, creating a user experience library lifeline, marketing services beyond books, and attracting all age groups, not only children and seniors. Results entailed having a school librarian in every school, more multitype collaborations, winning awards, and having no unserved areas.

7. Meeting recap and next meeting

Fister said the results of the doodle poll were to have the next Strategic plan meeting at 11 am on Friday, January 28, 2022. The regular board meeting will follow at 1:00 pm the same day.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.