

## RAILS UNIVERSAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, December 9, 2021 | 1:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

1. Welcome and Call to Order  
Susan Busenbark, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. on Thursday, December 9, 2021 virtually on Zoom.
2. Roll Call of Committee Members  
Palmisano called roll of the Committee members  
RAILS Burr Ridge: Becky Spratford  
Zoom: Sue Busenbark, Gail Bush, Carol Medal, Lynn Stainbrook, Catherine Yanikoski  
Absent: Beth Tepen, Jennifer McIntosh
3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements  
Busenbark read the following: In accordance with the Governor's Emergency Proclamation, 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.  
  
RAILS Burr Ridge: Deirdre Brennan, Monica Harris, Stacy Palmisano (designated minute taker)  
RAILS East Peoria: Thomas Stagg  
Zoom: Gwen Harrison, Greg McCormick, Joe Filapek, Emily Fister, Leila Heath  
  
Brennan announced that Patricia Smith resigned from the RAILS Board and will no longer be on the Universal Services Committee.
4. Public Comments  
There were no public comments
5. Consent Agenda
  - 5.1. Adoption of the Agenda
  - 5.2. Approval of the RAILS Board Universal Service Committee Minutes of September 9, 2021  
Spratford moved for the approval of the consent agenda. Yanikoski seconded and a roll call was taken. Ayes: Sue Busenbark, Gail Bush, Carol Medal, Becky Spratford, Lynn Stainbrook, Catherine Yanikoski. Nays: none
6. New Business
  - 6.1 ILA Legislative Priorities  
Brennan gave an update on the legislative priorities the Illinois Library Association (ILA) is currently focusing on. The ILA Executive Board voted to work on two proposals: the expansion of broadband infrastructure in public libraries and equitable e-book pricing for libraries. RAILS will continue to advocate for the expansion of the Cards for Kids Act and a statewide database.
  - 6.2 RAILS Board Statement on Universal Service  
Brennan reported the RAILS Board approved a formal Statement on universal service at their October 2021 meeting. The statement encourages the library community in Illinois to

come together, under the leadership of the Illinois State Library, to develop a plan and timeline for achieving universal service. A formal submission of the statement will be forwarded to the Illinois State Library.

There was a discussion on the Illinois State Library Advisory Committee (ISLAC) being reappointed. McCormick confirmed that the state library is in the process of reviewing the committee to ensure equitable membership between the library systems. Bush suggested that the RAILS statement be brought to that committee once it is established to further the progress of universal service.

## 7. Unfinished Business

### 7.1 Multiple Listing Service

Bush reported that there is progress on getting libraries included on real estate listings. In a response from the compliance analyst at Midwest Real Estate Data (MRED) the suggestion was received and will be sent to their board for review and possible approval. This process can take several months. Bush will continue to follow up with MRED. The details of where in the state this would apply is to be determined.

### 7.2 Library Mergers

Brennan reported that ILA at this time does not want to move forward in pursuing easier transition of library mergers. The topic is on hold.

### 7.3 Library Cards for Non-resident Minors

Brennan reported that RAILS staff and Bush met with Senator Laura Murphy and her Chief of Staff on December 8, 2021. The discussion focused on the expansion of the Card for Kids Act and the funding of statewide databases. RAILS has language prepared to amend the Library District Act and the Public Library Act that would allow library boards to waive the fee for non-residents which was given to the Senator. The amendment is not a mandate. Senator Murphy will move forward on the amendment.

### 7.4 Statewide Database Proposal

Brennan reported that at the meeting on December 8, 2021 with Senator Laura Murphy the statewide database proposal was discussed. RAILS will compile samples of legislature language from states that currently offer a statewide database program and forward the information to Senator Murphy. Bush stated that other states use IMLS and LSTA funding to support their programs. There was an agreement that there is a need for sustainable funding. Brennan will send Senator Murphy the house bill that amends the State Library Act (HB4092) to provide all Illinois residents electronic or digital resources, another terminology for databases. The topic of e-books to be included in the database project to serve the unserved population was discussed. The statewide database proposal focuses on informational resources and not recreational reading. The critical part of the proposal will be marketing to inform the public that this is a free service to all Illinois residents. Schools will be an access point to getting the word out. A statewide library app was suggested as a simple tool to access the databases rather than going to a website. Other states have reported that their state database programs are successful. Brennan will forward to the committee a document that includes background information collected from other states on their database plan. Rebranding the word "database" was discussed. McCormick reported that house bill 4092 uses the terminology of electronic or digital resources, rather

than database. McCormick had a conversation with the Director of the Ohio State Library on this topic and found that they utilize a combination of LSTA and Ohio Academics funding. The state of New York has an exemplary model of a database program that is available to all of the public.

Spratford requested talking points from RAILS that can be used at the upcoming ILA Legislative Meetups.

Medal congratulated Bush on the op-ed article she recently wrote and was published in the Chicago Tribune titled, "Unsung heroes at schools? Librarians".

McCormick gave the committee an update on the geo-map from GeoMark. The goal is to rollout the end of December.

#### 7.5 Statement of Universal Service

The statement was discussed in agenda item number 6.2

#### 8. Meeting recap and agenda building for the next RAILS Board Universal Service Committee Meeting

Busenbark gave a meeting recap. Action items include Bush to reach out to the contact at MRED regarding the status on the real estate listing project. Brennan will send Senator Murphy the house bill that amends the State Library Act (HB4092). RAILS will compile and forward to Senator Murphy legislature language from states that currently have a database program. Brennan will send a formal letter and board statement on Universal Service to the Illinois State Library.

On the agenda for the March 10, 2022 meeting will be feedback on the RAILS strategic town hall meetings regarding universal service, an update on the multiple listing service, and an update on the expansion of the Cards for Kids act.

#### 9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Final vote or action may be taken at the meeting on any agenda item subject matter listed above, unless the agenda item specifically states otherwise.