

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD MEETING

Friday, November 19, 2021 | 1:00 PM

Minutes

1. Welcome and call to order
Thomas Stagg, President of the RAILS Board, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, November 19, 2021 at the RAILS Burr Ridge service center.
2. Roll call of RAILS board members – Emily Fister
Fister called the roll of Board members
Burr Ridge: Halle Cox, Alice Creason, Dianne Hollister, Kris Kenney, Jennifer McIntosh, Scott Pointon, Patricia Smith, Becky Spratford, Thomas Stagg, Alex Vancina, Karen Voitik
Coal Valley: Beth Tepen
East Peoria: Robin Helenthal
Zoom: Monica Tolva
Absent: Sue Busenbark
3. Recognition of guests and announcements
Burr Ridge: Monica Harris, Jim Kregor, Sharon Swanson, Galin Iliev, Emily Fister-designated minute taker
East Peoria: Kendal Orrison
Illinois State Library: Greg McCormick
Zoom: Deirdre Brennan, Anne Slaughter, Leila Heath, Mary Witt, Anna Duff, Mark Hatch, Stacy Palmisano, Stephanie Chase, and Cindy Fesemyer (joined at 1:30 p.m.)
4. Public Comment
There were no public comments.
5. Oath of office
Newly appointed Board member Monica Tolva read the oath of office. She is excited to serve on the RAILS Board, to learn more about RAILS and to assist with a stronger voice for school libraries.
6. Consent agenda – Thomas Stagg
 - 6.1 Adoption of the Agenda
 - 6.2 RAILS Board Minutes of October 22, 2021 Special board Meeting
 - 6.3 RAILS Board Minutes of October 22, 2021 Regular Meeting
 - 6.4 RAILS Board Minutes of October 22, 2021 Closed Session Meeting
 - 6.5 RAILS Board Executive committee Minutes of October 11, 2021
 - 6.6 Approval of disbursements – October, 2021 –Jim KregorCox moved for the approval of the consent agenda. Voitik seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
7. RAILS Financial Report
Kregor reported the October 31 general fund cash and investment balance of \$19 million would fund approximately 19.8 months of operations. Revenues were \$1,568,672 below budget, compared to \$2,343,925 below budget as of September 30, as we received our first Area and Per Capita Grant (APC) payment of \$1,614,386. These payments are

budgeted evenly by month, but we receive them intermittently throughout the year. Three Live & Learn payments of \$1,072,500 each should soon be processed by the Comptroller's Office. Expenditures through October were \$105,189 below budget.

8. Reports

8.1 Report from the RAILS President

Stagg reported there were no committee reports as only subcommittees met since the last board meeting, those reports will be included in the January board packet.

8.2 RAILS Board Committee Reports-Committee Chairs

8.2.1 Advocacy Committee – Robin Helenthal

8.2.2 Consortia Committee - Thomas Stagg

8.2.3 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee-Dianne Hollister

8.2.4 Executive Committee – Thomas Stagg

8.2.5 Policy Committee – Thomas Stagg

8.2.6 Resource Sharing Committee – Monica Harris

8.2.7 Universal Service Committee – Sue Busenbark

8.3 RAILS Reports

8.3.1 RAILS Monthly

Deirdre Brennan reported that RAILS's booth at the AISLE conference was very well attended. RAILS is working with Senator Laura Murphy and the expansion of Cards for Kids is on track for being filed in January.

8.3.2 RAILS Service of the Month Report: How RAILS Engages library staff

Dan Bostrom explained Member Engagement as the intersection between communications, marketing, onboarding, and customer service. Bostrom said each library type has different needs and talked about the different tools RAILS uses to provide resources.

8.4 Illinois State Library Report

Greg McCormick reported that the Geomark mapping project contracted with Southern Illinois University is complete. There were eight libraries where the data being fed to the University and what the Department of Revenue had was conflicting, so the Illinois State Library reached out to those libraries for clarification. McCormick said the Illinois State Library will be reviewing school library grant applications over the next few weeks and is already beginning to look into the budget for FY23.

9. New business

9.1 Six-month review of closed session minutes

Stagg reported the board received via email the closed session minutes for May 22, 2020, August 28, 2020, May 28, 2021 and July 30, 2021. He asked if there were any questions or need for discussion.

Pointon moved that the Board release the minutes of May 22, 2020 and May 28, 2021, but keep the minutes August 28, 2020 and July 30, 2021 closed as the need for confidentiality still exists for those minutes. Spratford seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

9.2 Appointment of IMRF Agent

Kregor said that his retirement calls for someone to be designated as the Authorized agent for Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF). Harris has agreed to take on that role.

Vancina moved to approve the appointment of Monica Harris as the IMRF authorized agent for RAILS. Voitik seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

9.3 Review of RAILS depositories

Kregor explained the fiscal accountability policy calls for a review of the RAILS depositories. He updated the board on the current funds. Pointon moved and Hollister seconded for the approval of PMA with Harris N.A; Wintrust Banks, primarily Hinsdale Bank and Trust; and Illinois Funds as depositories of RAILS funds, with approval to invest in any of their product offerings, and removal of of the Private Bank and MB Financial as RAILS depositories. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Halle Cox, Alice Creason, Robin Helenthal, Dianne Hollister, Kris Kenney, Jennifer McIntosh, Scott Pointon, Patricia Smith, Becky Spratford, Thomas Stagg, Beth Tepen, Monica Tolva, Alex Vancina and Karen Voitik. Nays: none

A 10 minute break was taken.

10. Unfinished business

10.1 Strategic Planning update

Fesemyer and Chase presented the notes from the various meetings for the strategic plan including steering committee discussions, town hall meetings, and focus groups. They also conducted 1-on-1 interviews with several key partners, including Leslie Bednar and Ellen Popit of Illinois Heartland Library System, Diane Foote of the Illinois Library Association, Anne Craig of CARLI, and Greg McCormick of the Illinois State Library. Overall notes include:

- The majority of participants across all engagements represent public libraries and directors/upper management
- Special and academic libraries are the least represented in terms of participants; school libraries are least represented in terms of overall percentage of potential participants
- RAILS is praised for its leadership (the work with REALM during the pandemic was most mentioned as an example)
- Members would like RAILS to continue/expand this visible leadership role; small/solo libraries find the efficiency valuable

The team reviewed potential goals and objectives and a potential mission statement of simply “we connect libraries.”

11. Board development

RAILS academic libraries trends and challenges

Jennifer McIntosh shared a slideshow on libraries trends and challenges. McIntosh’s takeaway suggestions included working to share best practices/models of reciprocal borrowing among different library types, encourage clarity around defining community borrowers, map relationships between libraries, and promote the L2 directory.

12. RAILS board member reports

Dianne Hollister reported her library's expansion renovation request is making headway. Scott Pointon said his library staff made a Halloween Haunted House that had roughly six hundred people in attendance.

13. Meeting recap and agenda building for the next board meeting

Stagg informed there is no meeting scheduled for December. The next meeting will be a special Board Meeting for Strategic Planning on January 28th at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch and a regular Board Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

14. Closed session

Stagg reported the Board will move into closed session to discuss matters pertaining to collective negotiating, as per 5 Illinois Compiled Statutes, chapter 120, paragraph 2, section 2(c)2, which states: *Exceptions. A public body may hold closed meetings to consider the following subjects: (2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.*

Halle Cox and Monica Tolva left the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Vancina moved and Kenney seconded that the board move into closed session. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Alice Creason, Robin Helenthal, Dianne Hollister, Kris Kenney, Jennifer McIntosh, Scott Pointon, Patricia Smith, Becky Spratford, Thomas Stagg, Beth Teppen, Alex Vancina and Karen Voitik. Nays: none

Guests in closed session: Deirdre Brennan, Monica Harris, Mark Hatch, Emily Fister and attorney Margaret Kostopulos.

Closed session started at 3:24 p.m.

At 3:46 p.m. Vancina moved that the Board move back into open session. Hollister seconded and a roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Sue Busenbark, Halle Cox, Alice Creason, Robin Helenthal, Kris Kenney, Jennifer McIntosh, Scott Pointon, Becky Spratford, Beth Teppen, Alex Vancina, Karen Voitik, Thomas Stagg. Nays: none.

15. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.