

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD MEETING

Friday, February 25, 2022 | 1:00 PM

Draft Minutes**1. Welcome and call to order**

Thomas Stagg, RAILS Board President called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 25, 2022. He announced 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. All votes will be by roll call.

2. Roll call of RAILS board members

Fister called the roll of Board members

Zoom: Sue Busenbark, Alice Creason, Robin Helenthal, Dianne Hollister, Kris Kenney, Scott Pointon, Becky Spratford, Beth Tepen, Monica Tolva, Thomas Stagg, Karen Voitik

Absent: Halle Cox, Jennifer McIntosh, Alex Vancina

3. Recognition of guests and announcements

Burr Ridge: Deirdre Brennan, Monica Harris

Zoom: Anne Slaughter, Leila Heath, Mary Witt, Mark Hatch, Joseph Filapek, Sharon Swanson, Grant Halter, Stacy Palmisano, Ryan Hebel, Greg McCormick, Katherine Henc, Emily Fister-designated minute taker.

4. Public comments

None.

5. Consent agenda

5.1 Adoption of the Agenda

5.2 RAILS Board Minutes of January 28, 2022 special board meeting

5.3 RAILS Board Minutes of January 28, 2022 regular meeting

5.4 RAILS Board Minutes of January 28, 2022 closed session meeting

5.5 Approval of disbursements –January 2022 –Sharon Swanson

Hollister moved for the approval of the consent agenda. Voitik seconded and the motion was unanimously approved on a roll call vote: Ayes Sue Busenbark, Alice Creason, Robin Helenthal, Dianne Hollister, Kris Kenney, Scott Pointon, Becky Spratford, Beth Tepen, Monica Tolva, Thomas Stagg, Karen Voitik

Nays: none

6. RAILS Financial Report

Swanson reported the January 31 general fund cash and investment balance (\$20.8 million) would fund approximately 21.7 months of operations. Revenues through January of \$7,867,981 were \$162,787 above budget due to the receipt of two of the four remaining Live & Learn payments from the APC grant totaling \$2,145,000, additional payments were received totaling \$2,145,000 last week. Investment income was \$9,653 through January or 42.5% below the budgeted amount due to both the Illinois Funds' and Hinsdale Bank money market rates are remaining below the .14% rate that we had budgeted. Predictions

for interest rate increases have changed, taking into account the war in the Ukraine and the rapidly rising inflation rates demonstrating the changeable financial environment. Expenditures through January of \$7,442,763 were \$400,656 below budget.

7. Reports

7.1 Report from the RAILS President

Stagg had no report.

7.2 RAILS Board Committee Reports-Committee Chairs

Stagg reported there were reports from the Advocacy, Consortia, EDI, Resource Sharing and Universal Service committees included in the packet.

7.3 RAILS Reports

7.3.1 RAILS Monthly Report

Brennan said that her report has been formatted to include the new strategic plan goals so that the board may follow as progress takes place and includes the quarterly consortia reports. New employee Janette Derucki started last month, as the Data Research Assistant to Grant Halter and will be introduced at a future board meeting. Brennan and Harris continue to meet with CPL director Chris Brown on a monthly basis. At The LLSAP working group is meeting with the Heartland system, CARLI and the Illinois State Library to discuss the feasibility of a statewide ILS that would be more inclusive to all libraries, and more efficient and easier for users. The consensus is that an objective perspective is needed, and the group will be looking for consultants. The Statement of Economic Interests are due on May 2 and have been changed from previous years. RAILS is working with our attorney on some guidance for our members. RAILS is looking to the CDC, IDPH, and the State Library regarding changes in guidelines with masking and COVID safety issues. Certification is ongoing and ends on March 31, 2022.

7.3.2 RAILS Service of the Month Report: Measuring the Impact of RAILS

Halter reported his presentation at the November 2020 meeting generated comments and questions about data resources. He has added the "data in libraries page" which includes IPLAR data, Biblioboard usage data, Eread inventory, as well as any data related podcasts, articles, deals and discounts and CE events. He showed the new map portal and its different layers, such as the reopening status for RAILS member libraries and the core IPLAR data. Later plans are to create more in-depth maps as requests are made. Data training has been requested by members, and that is being further developed. He will be adding additional metrics to tie the measures in the Strategic plan and the measures will continue to show progress in each objective. Certification included an additional set of questions to school libraries since data from schools has been difficult to gather. This additional information will support the school data project supported by the AISLE partnership. Surveys regarding satisfaction and improving of RAILS CEs is going out soon. He worked with Jessica Barnes on an Explore More Illinois survey regarding visitor stats as well as an E-news survey about content, format, and frequency. He reviewed the LLSAP working group dashboard showing operating expenses, fees and population served.

7.4 Illinois State Library Report

McCormick reported the Illinois General Assembly is back in session and the Secretary of State funding requests in Senate Bill 4151 and House Bill 5681 remain in play after the appropriation hearings have taken place. The applications for the System Area and Per Capita grant will be sent soon and there will be a few changes with a due date of June 1. The State is ahead of schedule for payments this year and the payments for school grants will be expedited as well. He said we are still waiting for updates regarding masking mandates.

8. New business

8.1 Delivery update

Harris reviewed a report from Deliver Consultant Greg Pronevitz from December 2021 and gave an update to current (February 2022). The trend is for increased pricing due to labor, fuel, and vehicle cost increases. Two of the four vendor responses used automated materials handling (AMH) systems and those lacked proposals to provide sorting and delivery services as requested in the RFP. Harris reviewed the proposals: Vendor A – acceptable services but high prices for the Coal Valley, East Peoria, and Rockford service areas; Vendor B- acceptable services but high for the Bolingbrook and Elmhurst service areas. Pricing for delivery is complex and there were follow up meetings that resulted in revised rates. The current recommendation is to offer additional work to current Vendor B, contingent on developing a collaborative relationship and quality improvements.

A short break was taken.

9. Unfinished business

9.1 Board election process

Brennan said as was discussed at the January meeting there is a need to bring more Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) best practices to the RAILS service area. She has discussed with attorney Julie Tappendorf, who suggested policy changes should be made to establish a framework before proceeding. Brennan met with Stagg and Vancina, Policy Committee chair, to discuss moving forward. Any changes will go into effect for the 2023 election. Last year the bylaws were changed to include two RAILS board members who will serve on the nominating committee, instead of all committee members selected from the general RAILS membership. Brennan said any criteria regarding board make-up related to EDI, should follow an established diversity policy or program that includes additional aspects of EDI best practices, such as employment equity, rather than focusing only on the board. Changes will be more than just the policy, but bigger changes that will be more inclusive to those candidates with less name recognition, different levels of education and experience, as well as ethnic and racial diversity.

10. Board Development -Universal Service

Busenbark reported on the background, purpose, and development of the Universal Service committee. The RAILS Board Statement on Universal Library Service was approved by the board on October 22, 2021 and the first sentence states: “As long as even one Illinois

resident does not have access to a public library, our state is not meeting its basic obligations to educate all residents.” The committee has been a proponent of the Cards for Kids Act which specifies that K-12 students living in unincorporated areas in Illinois who are eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches under the National School Lunch Program, as determined by the Income Eligibility Guidelines established by the USDA, shall not be charged a nonresident fee to use the library. The committee has worked on getting changes to Multiple Listing Services (MLS) to include library information for real estate sales. RAILS will continue to advocate for the Proposal for Statewide Access to Core Database Suite for All Illinois Libraries.

11. RAILS board member reports

Hollister reported that a 20-year discussion for the expansion of the Bloomington Public library has finally resulted in approval from the City Council. Spratford said the LaGrange Public Library just hired a social worker and they are excited to have him.

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

The next board meeting will be Friday, March 18 at 1 pm. Stagg noted that it is a week early due to the Public Library Association (PLA) conference that is being held in Portland, Oregon March 23-25. Included on the agenda will be an update on Explore More Illinois by Jessica Barnes.

13. Closed session

Stagg said the board would not go into closed session.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.