

Virtual Meeting
RAILS Board Universal Service Committee Meeting

March 10, 2022 | 1:00 pm

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Call to Order
Susan Busenbark called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.
2. Roll Call of Committee Members
Zoom: Sue Busenbark, Gail Bush, Jennifer McIntosh, Carol Medal, Becky Spratford, Lynn Stainbrook, Beth Tepen
Absent: Catherine Yanikoski
3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements
RAILS Burr Ridge: Monica Harris, Stacy Palmisano (note taker)
RAILS East Peoria: Non in attendance
Zoom: Greg McCormick, Gwen Harrison, Karen Egan, Tom Stagg, Joe Filapek, Katherine Henc, Leila Heath
4. Public Comments
No public comments
5. Consent Agenda - Susan Busenbark (action requested)
 - 5.1. Adoption of the Agenda
 - 5.2. Approval of the RAILS Board Universal Service Committee Minutes of December 9, 2021

Stainbrook moved and Spratford seconded for the approval of the consent agenda and a roll call was taken. Ayes: Sue Busenbark, Gail Bush, Jennifer McIntosh, Carol Medal, Becky Spratford, Lynn Stainbrook, Beth Tepen. Nays: none.
6. New Business
 - 6.1. RAILS Strategic Plan: Feedback on Universal Service
Harris gave an overview of the new RAILS Strategic Plan and discussed the planning process. The new strategic plan was built on the current goals and was looked at with a new perspective due of the pandemic. Contributions from RAILS staff and RAILS members were key in the process. The consultants used virtual engagement tools to get feedback in real time at all of the meetings. Poll Everywhere, Padlet, Jamboard and Google Docs were excellent engagement tools. A steering committee was formed to oversee the project and was represented by a diverse group of staff, board, and members from all types of libraries. The RAILS Board and the RAILS Executive Team were very active in the planning process as well. Members expressed that they want RAILS to do big things and to connect all types of libraries. Both the vision statement and the mission statement were revised. The new vision statement is “Thriving libraries are essential to all who learn, live, or work in Illinois”, and the new mission statement is “We Connect Libraries”. The plan is organized into four strategic goals; leadership, equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion, preparing for the future and develop and strengthen the Illinois library community. For more information on the strategic plan process watch the most recent RAILS Spark podcast where Deirdre Brennan and Monica Harris discuss the planning

process in detail.

6.2. Illinois Library Service Areas Map- ISL

Egan gave an overview of the map that was developed by GeoMARC for the Illinois State Library. Egan shared the map with the committee and went over the navigation tools and the different capabilities of the map. The map shows the public library boundaries as well as the unserved areas of Illinois. One feature is the ability to see the race and ethnicity and the latest census information for each library. McCormick spoke about adding school and academic information to the map but said that there is an issue of overcrowding that needs to be addressed. The map can be a tool for libraries to pursue a referendum to add unserved areas to their boundaries. Filapek discussed the idea of offering a webinar on the capabilities of the map to the RAILS' membership. Egan expressed the importance of keeping the map up to date, and that public libraries should report boundary changes. The state library sent out a letter to all public libraries in the state introducing the updated map. The map will be uploaded to the Illinois State Library's website soon. In the meantime, Egan supplied the web link to the committee members to take the opportunity to review the maps features.

7. Unfinished Business

7.1. Multiple Listing Service

Bush gave an update on the multiple listing service project. Sandra Brown, a real estate broker whom Bush has been working with is staying on top of this project with Midwest Real Estate Data (MRED). MRED is the aggregator of the MLS listings in the Midwest. Brown will complete the official form to request additional data of public libraries be added to the MLS listing. The committee discussed sending letters of support with the official form from RAILS, the Illinois State Library (ISL), and from the Illinois Library Association (ILA). Harris will draft a letter along with background information on the project. Bush will research if it would be beneficial to have brokers also create letters of support. Filapek is an executive member of the ILA Board and will report on this project at their meeting held tomorrow March 11, 2022.

7.2. Library Cards for Non-Resident Minors Update

Harris reported that the amendment (SB3497) to the library cards for non-resident minors passed in the Illinois Senate. The amendment is optional for public libraries to offer a non-resident card to minors that do not qualify for the school reduced lunch program. A hearing of the amendment is scheduled for the Illinois House on March 15. Filapek proposed the creation of a FAQ/Talking Points document to list the advantages for public libraries that are considering adopting the proposed amendment. The committee had an active conversation regarding scenarios in which a library would and would not adopt the changes to the non-resident minor cards.

7.3. Statewide Database

Harris reported that the statewide database project was discussed with Senator Laura Murphy, but a bill has not been filed at this time. Harris discussed House Bill 4092, introduced by Representative William Davis, focusing on adding the availability of electronic and digital resources for Illinois residents. This bill has not moved forward in this session. During the strategic planning process RAILS' members expressed an interest in the need for a statewide database. RAILS will continue to move forward on this project.

8. Meeting recap and agenda building for the next RAILS Board Universal Service Committee Meeting on June 9, 2022

Busenbark gave a recap on the meeting. RAILS will create a draft letter of support to share with ISL and ILA to add public libraries to the MLS listings with MRED.

9. Adjournment

Busenbark adjourned the meeting at 2:04 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.