

**VIRTUAL MEETING
RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING**

September 8, 2022
125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527

Minutes

1. Welcome and Call to Order
Robin Helenthal, Advocacy Committee chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Helenthal 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.
2. Roll Call of Members
Goyer called the roll of Committee members.
Zoom: Monica Caldicott, Alice Creason, Juanita Harrell, Sarah McHone-Chase, Thomas Stagg
RAILS East Peoria: Robin Helenthal
Absent: Kara Thorstenson, Amy Walsh
3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements
Guests in attendance at RAILS Burr Ridge: Monica Harris (ex-officio)
Guests in attendance via Zoom: Deirdre Brennan (ex-officio), Karen Goyer (minute taker), Ryan Hebel, Mary Witt (ex-officio)
4. Public Comments
There were no public comments.
5. Consent Agenda – Deirdre Brennan
 - 5.1. Adoption of the Agenda
 - 5.2. Approval of the RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Minutes of August 11, 2022
Creason moved for the approval of the consent agenda. Caldicott seconded and a roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Monica Caldicott, Alice Creason, Juanita Harrell, Robin Helenthal, Sarah McHone-Chase, Thomas Stagg. Nays: none. Absent: Kara Thorstenson, Amy Walsh.
6. New Business
 - 6.1. Introduction of New Committee Member
Brennan introduced Monica Tolva Caldicott, RAILS Board Member and Library Media Specialist at Community High School District 128, as the newest school representative on the Advocacy Committee.
7. Unfinished Business
 - 7.1. Legislative Update
The ILA Public Policy Committee voted on the Statewide Access to Online Resources proposal as their top priority. A suggested proposal is an amendment to the Local Records Act. The proposal would provide a more modern process, set a time when records automatically expire, provide guidance on records retention, and be similar to the process in other states. There was support for proposals for legislation to keep the hybrid format for meetings, OMA Training update, and to provide libraries the flexibility to move money from budget lines to where the money is needed.
 - 7.2. Report on ILA Advocacy Committee Meeting

Harris reported the upcoming Legislative Meetups were discussed. The committee is undecided whether meetings would be in person and separated into geographic regions. There was discussion on a questionnaire for Secretary of State candidates consisting of five questions such as materials challenges, serving the unserved, whether the candidates have a library card and use the library, and other timely topics related to libraries.

7.3. Advocacy Committee Goals for FY2023

Harris suggested several goals and recommended the members limit the focus to three of the suggestions for the upcoming year. The members expressed interest in all of the following goals:

- Support for school libraries and school library data collection
- Statewide Online Resources and Record Retention Legislation Support
- Support for special libraries
- Materials challenges
- Find More Illinois
- Open educational resources

It was agreed there will be a focus on one goal each month. RAILS will provide talking points that relate to that goal. Members will use the talking points within their networks and report back to the committee about these conversations. There will be opportunities for different ways to advocate for the goals.

7.4. Update on Suspension of RAILS School Library Member

The RAILS membership suspension of Saint Andrew Catholic School has been brought before the RAILS Board. RAILS has not been successful in connecting with the school administrator to explain the loss of RAILS member benefits to the school as well as the impact on the Rock River Consortium. Brennan will reach out to Rock River Consortium school librarians for assistance.

8. Meeting Recap and Agenda Building for the Next RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting

The next Advocacy Committee meeting will be held on October 13, 2022 at 4 pm.

The topics for the next meeting agenda are:

- Legislative Update
- ILA Advocacy Committee Meeting Update
- RAILS Advocacy Committee Goal

9. Adjournment

Helenthal adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.