

**VIRTUAL MEETING
RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING**

October 13, 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 statement: 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/Telephone: Monica Caldicott, Alice Creason, Juanita Harrell, Robin Helenthal, Sarah McHone-Chase, Thomas Stagg
Absent: Kara Thorstenson, Amy Walsh
3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements
Guests in attendance at RAILS Burr Ridge: Deirdre Brennan (ex-officio), Karen Goyer (minute taker), Monica Harris (ex-officio)
Guests in attendance via Zoom: Ryan Hebel, Mary Witt (ex-officio)
4. Public Comments
There were no public comments.
5. Consent Agenda
 - 5.1. Adoption of the Agenda
 - 5.2. Approval of the RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Minutes of September 8, 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.
6. New Business
 - 6.1. Advocacy Committee Goals
Brennan explained the committee goals are prioritized in a way that makes sense based on the timing of the topics. RAILS staff will continue to work on all the goals. Each month the committee will focus on one goal to discuss and review talking points. Committee members will have the opportunity to use their networking connections or other venues to advocate for the topic. Members will provide feedback to the committee on their advocacy efforts and responses to the talking points. These discussions will help determine if the advocacy efforts and talking points are the right approach.
 - 6.2. Goal of the Month - Find More Illinois Advocacy
Brennan reviewed the talking points for Find More Illinois (FMI) Advocacy document. Witt noted specific talking points are based on the library type. When discussing FMI with libraries, it is important to point out that FMI has grown and improved since its inception. Some libraries may

not have found it to be a good fit when FMI first started but may find the current version very useful. Caldecott will meet with a group of school librarians and report back at the November meeting with feedback on FMI. Stagg suggested librarian testimonials for FMI be posted on the My Library Is website.

6.3. Specialized Library Advocacy discussion and review of excerpts from 2021 minutes
Brennan reviewed the conversations this committee had in the past with specialized librarians. It is important to know that specialized libraries are very different and range from government to scientific with varying levels of access. Harrell reported recent student visits to the DuPage County Law Library increased awareness of specialized library service.

7. Unfinished Business

7.1. Legislative Update

The ILA Board is in process of voting on legislative proposal priorities. RAILS staff recently talked to the ILA Board about the Records Retention act and Statewide Access to Online Resources proposals. The Records Retention act was very well received at the RAILS member update. RAILS received communication from the Local Records Commission inquiring about the records retention proposal. RAILS is confident it will be adopted in the future and will be valuable not only to libraries but other agencies as well.

7.2. Report on ILA Advocacy Committee Meeting

Harris summarized the ILA Advocacy committee report that was presented at the ILA Public Policy Committee meeting. The questionnaire responses from the Secretary of State candidates have been published on the ILA website. Because the Secretary of State also serves as the State Librarian, ILA contacted candidates Dan Brady and Alexi Giannoulis and asked them to share their perspectives on libraries. The report also stated the committee is working out options for the Legislative Meet Ups. ILA Advocacy Committee will present two advocacy programs at the ILA conference.

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

The next Advocacy Committee meeting will be held on November 10, 2022 at 4 pm. The suggested topics for the next meeting agenda are:

- Find More Illinois advocacy feedback
- Harrell will report on advocacy feedback from Chicago Association of Law Librarians
- Caldicott will report on high school librarian feedback on RAILS advocacy efforts
- Legislative update
- ILA advocacy committee report
- Reports on ILA and AISLE conferences
- Goal of the month - Legislative proposals for statewide online resources and records retention changes

9. Adjournment

Helenthal adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m.