

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD MEETING

Friday, June 16, 2023 | 1:00 PM
Burr Ridge Service Center | 125 Tower Drive
Burr Ridge, IL 60527

MINUTES

1. Welcome and call to order
Alex Vancina, RAILS Board President called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. on Friday, June 16, 2023 at the RAILS Burr Ridge service center.
2. Roll call of RAILS board members
Fister called the roll of the board members:
Burr Ridge: Monica Caldicott, Rosie Camargo, Alice Creason, Julie Milavec, Jennifer McIntosh, Alex Vancina, Vanessa Villareal, Karen Voitik
Coal Valley: Beth Tepen
East Peoria: Robin Helenthal, Thomas Stagg
Zoom: Dianne Hollister
Absent: Rene Leyva, Becky Spratford,
3. Recognition of guests and announcements xxx
Burr Ridge: Monica Harris, Sharon Swanson, Galin Iliev, Mary Witt, Joe Filapek, Barb Miller, Mark Hatch, Laura Nemeth, Jennifer Hovanec, Emily Fister (designated minute taker)
Zoom: Dan Bostrom, Ryan Hebel, Megan Harmon
4. Public comments and announcements
There were no public comments.
5. Consent agenda
 - 5.1 Adoption of the Agenda
 - 5.2 RAILS Board minutes of May 26, 2023 regular meeting
 - 5.3 RAILS Board minutes of May 26, 2023 closed session meeting
 - 5.4 Approval of Disbursements: May, 2023Milavec moved for the approval of the consent agenda. Helenthal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
6. RAILS Financial Report
Swanson reported the May 31, 2023 general fund cash and investment balance (\$23.3 million) would fund approximately 22.4 months of budgeted operations. General fund revenues through May of over \$15.7 million were approximately \$1.6 million above budget due to APC grant revenues received to-date, the unbudgeted L2 maintenance and development project as well as the world language cataloging project grant revenues (totaling nearly \$111,000) and Investment income (nearly \$714,000 above budget). General fund expenditures through May of over \$12.7 million were nearly \$753,000 below budget due to lower contractual services, delays in filling several personnel positions, and lower vehicle expenses. Five checks were intercepted in the mail and RAILS Payee Positive Pay flagged a check and put stop payments to others. RAILS is adding other security

measures such as purchasing special magnetic ink to use on checks that is much more difficult to wash.

7. Reports

7.1 Report from the RAILS President

Vancina reported that there were three outgoing board members: Becky Spratford, who could not attend, Beth Tepen who attended in Coal Valley and Jennifer McIntosh who attended in Burr Ridge. Jennifer accepted her plaque which read: In Sincere Appreciation for Your Service to the RAILS Board. Vancina said that effective board members are essential to the growth and strength of RAILS and we are truly grateful for the time and effort all have put forth in their roles as Board members.

7.2 RAILS Board Committee Reports - Committee Chairs

There were no additions to the reports included in the agenda packet.

7.3 RAILS Reports

7.3.1 RAILS Monthly Report

Harris acknowledged many contributions of Mary Witt, RAILS Marketing and Communications director as she prepares for retirement in July. She reported on the signing of HB2789 by Illinois Governor Jay Pritzker, held at Howard Washington Public Library in Chicago. She finished her in-person Meet and Greet tour. In addition, she visited each delivery location and met with delivery teams there. She reported that the statewide access to electronic resources had been funded thanks to the approval of the Secretary of State's budget. It has the potential to save Illinois libraries about \$95 million and will give access to electronic resources to libraries with low budgets as well as to underserved and unserved patrons. The Associate Executive Director search was narrowed down to 2 finalists; a decision will be made in early July. The ALA conference begins on June 22nd in Chicago. Harris invited Board members to visit the RAILS at booth 3414. The Explore More Illinois program has recently been expanded to include the Chicago Public Library.

7.3.2 RAILS Service of the Month – Find More Illinois Update

Miller gave an overview of Find More Illinois, an interlibrary loan platform that provides access to materials from participating libraries across Illinois. She discussed the benefits of the program, including the ability to borrow materials from libraries across the state, the convenience of delivery directly to patrons' home libraries, and the cost savings for libraries. She also noted that the program is currently open to libraries of all types and that a dozen more libraries have expressed interest in joining.

7.4 Illinois State Library Report- ISL Staff

Meghan Harmon from the Illinois State Library introduced herself to the Board. She added that the next step in the implementation of HB2789 will be the drafting of administrative rules, which are expected to be finalized and in place by January 1st, 2024. She mentioned that SB2419, License to Read Act, is still awaiting the governor's signature. The Library Development Group is currently reading through grant applications to submit to the Secretary of State for approval, including system area and per capita grants, literacy grants, Illinois Library delivery services grants, as well as programmatic support grants, including L2.

8. New business

8.1 Report on Board election and recommended slate of officers

Creason reported on the board election and officer recommendations. The newly elected members are Gwen Gregory for the academic library seat; for public library seats Alex Vancina (reelected), Jean Carroll, and Jennifer Hovanec; school library seat – Monica Caldicott (reelected); special library – Catherine Yanikoski. The committee recommended: Vancina for president, Gregory as vice president, Milavec – as secretary, and Karen Voitik for the post of treasurer. The slate will be voted on at the July board meeting.

8.2 Organization chart and compensation structure FY2024

Harris presented an updated RAILS organizational chart and compensation structure for FY24. Villareal moved to approve the changes, Hollister seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved with a roll call vote.

8.3 New member application

Bostrom presented two new member applications for School District 50 in Washington, IL and Saint Catherine Laboure School in Glenview, IL. Camargo moved to approve both applications for membership with final approval requested from the State Library. Caldicott seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

8.4 Draft Board Meeting Fiscal Year 2024 Calendar

Harris presented the draft meeting schedule for FY2024 included in the meeting packet. The schedule will be voted on at the July board meeting.

9. Board development

9.1 My Library Is... Campaign progress report

Dan Bostrom, RAILS Member Engagement Manager outlined the history and offerings of the “My Library Is ...” program. It began in 2018 as a response to members’ requests for help promoting the value of libraries to their stakeholders, especially for concrete tools such as videos and talking points. One of the first items produced were the videos "Dreams Take Flight." and "Elders of the Internet." Talking points for all types of libraries were released in 2020 for use by any type of library. The RAILS partnership grant was rebranded as the "My Library Is... grant program." Initially, it provided funds to all library types. In the past three years, it has only been available to schools based on RAILS’ determination that is where the funds are needed most. “My Library Is...” website offers training webinars, links to external content, and maintains a publicly accessible "Sharing Showcase,” where libraries can share resources. The website also hosts a popular blog with posts representing all library types, featuring articles from grant recipients. The materials are also used in partnership with ILA for legislative advocacy. Other resources for the campaign include a campaign advisory team and video series: "My Library Is..." and "Specialized Library Spotlight.”

10. RAILS board member reports

Milavec reported that she will be presenting at the upcoming ALA conference in Chicago at the “Beyond the Vote: Advocacy for Libraries” session on Sunday. Villareal reported she also will be

participating as a panelist in the Literacy Nation discussion at the same conference and is helping with the Readathon event. She shared the new, candy-themed summer reading program materials developed at the Lake Villa Library. Hollister shared her experience receiving an email from a patron protesting Pride Month displays. Other members shared that they have encountered those situations as well. Vancina pointed out that in his opinion a small but very vocal minority is responsible for them. Harris commented that based on what she's seen, the challenges, particularly towards LGBTQ materials, have been on the rise in Illinois. She recommended that trustees familiarize themselves with their library's mission statement, collection development, and reconsideration policies. Camargo commended the Gail Borden Library for their interactive exhibit for their Teenage Ninja Turtle summer reading program. Villareal mentioned that the Oak Park Library received a grant to highlight 50 years of Hip Hop and a Hip Hop bus as part of the event. Milavec shared that the Downers Grove Library is currently hosting a legacy exhibit of members LGBTQ community who contributed to over 20 disciplines throughout history.

11. Meeting recap and agenda building for the next RAILS board meeting

The next meeting is set for Friday, July 28 at 1 p.m. The day will start with new board member orientation at 9:30 a.m.; all board members are invited. Lunch will be served at noon and the regular board meeting at 1 pm. Included on the agenda: swearing in of new board members; voting for the executive committee slate of officers; and board meeting calendar.

12. Adjourn

Vancina adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.