Approved 11/13/2023

125 Tower Drive
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
630.734.5000
630.734.5050
railslibraries.org

Minutes
RAILS Board Resource Sharing Committee Meeting
Monday, August 31, 2023 │1:00 pm

1. Welcome and Call to Order
   Becky Spratford, Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

2. Roll Call of Members
   Murray called roll of committee members.
   Burr Ridge: Amy Dodson, Guillermo Gasca, Travis Givens, Jeanne Modelski, Annie Miskewitch
   (arrived at 1:09 pm), Becky Spratford
   Coal Valley: Laura Long
   Normal Public Library: Dianne Hollister
   Zoom: Dr. Marlo Barnett
   Absent: Julie Milavec
   A quorum was present.

3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements
   Guests in Burr Ridge: Anna Behm, Joe Filapek, Monica Harris, Barb Miller, Stacy Palmisano, Anne
   Slaughter
   Guests via Zoom: Eric Bain, Gwen Harrison

   Spratford welcomed new committee members and all committee members introduced themselves.

4. Public Comments
   There were no public comments.

5. Adoption of the Consent Agenda – Becky Spratford (action requested)
   5.1. Adoption of the Agenda
   5.2. Approval of the RAILS Board Resource Sharing Committee Minutes of May 8, 2023
   Modelski motioned and Givens seconded the adoption of the consent agenda as presented. The
   motion was approved by unanimous vote.

6. Reports
   6.1. RAILS Report – Monica Harris
       Harris announced the hiring of new RAILS Associate Executive Director, Joe Filapek. Harris
       reported that RAILS received feedback from the Executive Director Meet and Greets requesting
       information on the Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiencies, which is now
       available on the RAILS website and the reporting template provided by Ancel and Glink has
       proven helpful to members. Chicago Public Library joined Explore More Illinois, which added
       some much-requested Chicago attractions to the program and greatly expanded usage. Harris

briefed the committee on the successful meeting between RAILS, Illinois Heartland Library System, and the Illinois State Library at the Illinois State Library in Springfield, where statewide programs and future collaborations were discussed.

6.2. Find More Illinois Report – Barb Miller
Miller walked the committee through the talking points promoting Find More Illinois (FMI), a program that connects libraries of all types, with varying levels of automation, through a shared catalog that helps expand access to resources across the state. There are currently 57 libraries of all types participating in FMI. Find More Illinois greatly increases the number of items available to students, allows small libraries access to a larger collection, and can provide a catalog and automation for nonautomated libraries. Miller encouraged committee members to promote the program to library directors, trustees, colleagues, and patrons. Libraries that participate can decide what can and cannot be shared. Set-up fees are waived through December 2023 and implementation is web-based.

7. Unfinished Business
7.1. Statewide Online Educational Resources Program Update
Secretary Giannoulias included $5 million in the budget from a statewide online educational resource program, and the budget was approved. Programs like this can provide cost-savings for everyone, but the heaviest users in other states are school and academic libraries. While working to establish the program, the Illinois State Library is in conversation with Michigan, who has a long-standing electronic resource program, and New York, due to a similar population makeup. This will be a topic at the ISLAC meeting in September.

8. New Business
8.1. Overview of the FY2024 RAILS Operational Plan
Harris reviewed the FY2024 RAILS Operational Plan. Current open positions at RAILS are the Director of Communications and Director of Continuing Education and Consulting. RAILS is currently developing a succession plan, undergoing a full benchmarking process with HR Source, and working on a major rewiring project at Burr Ridge. The Delivery department is planning to replace its aging fleet of vehicles, with one box truck already purchased. The Resource Sharing department saved members over $3 million last year through the Deals and Discounts program. Efforts in the field of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) include the upcoming launch of the Freedom Lifted program, which will provide asynchronous EDI training for member libraries, as well as an equity audit of RAILS personnel policies. Grants currently available to members include a Continuing Education grant, the My Library Is grant, the Catalog Membership grants, and LLSAP Support grants. The AISLE Partnership meets monthly to work on school library advocacy projects, including the SLATE project, formerly known as the School Library Data Project. RAILS maintains regular meetings with partner organizations, leading to the creation of the Unite Against Book Bans in Illinois group, a regional response team designed to support those facing material challenges.

8.2. Approval of the FY2024 RAILS Board Resource Sharing Committee Meeting Schedule
Givens motioned, and Modelski seconded to approve the RAILS Resource Sharing Committee FY2024 Quarterly Meeting Schedule as presented. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

8.3. Review of the RAILS Board Resource Sharing Committee Charge
The committee reviewed the Resource Sharing Committee Charge. Murray will contact members regarding term limits.

8.4. e-Read and e-Content Update
Behm presented the major e-content providers in Illinois, how their use varies across different libraries, consortia, and library systems throughout the state. E-Read Illinois started as a grant funded program in 2013 to expand access to e-Books in Illinois. RAILS' e-Read is an opt-in program, and one hundred percent of the fees that members pay into the program go toward collection development. Behm discussed the complexity of managing a large e-content consortium including the large number of participating schools, each with different needs, as well as determining equitable fee structures, dealing with technological issues or changes at the vendor level, navigating pricing and licensing complications, and helping libraries manage e-collections across multiple platforms. Programs like Simply-E or The Palace Project have worked on solutions to managing multiple collections. Behm noted that e-books were the highest e-content circulating during the pandemic, and now, e-audiobooks are on the rise.

9. Meeting Recap and Agenda Building
The next Resource Sharing Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, November 13 at 10:00 am. Agenda items will include a Delivery update and a recap of resource sharing and legislative updates from ILA. Find More Illinois and Statewide Online Database project will continue to be regular agenda items.

10. Adjournment
Spratford adjourned the meeting at 2:25 pm.