

**REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD MEETING
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.
Burr Ridge Service Center

Draft MINUTES

1. Welcome and Call to Order
Alex Vancina, President of the RAILS Board called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. at the RAILS Burr Ridge service center.
2. Roll Call of Committee Members
Emily Fister called the roll of the committee members:
Present at Burr Ridge: Alex Vancina, Gwen Gregory, Julie Milavec, Karen Voitik and Rene Leyva.
3. Recognition of guests and announcements
Guests at Burr Ridge: Monica Harris, Dan Bostrom, Stacy Palmisano, Yolande Wilburn
Zoom: Emily Fister-designated minute taker
4. Public comments
There were no public comments.
5. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - 5.1 Adoption of agenda
 - 5.2 Approval of minutes of January 4, 2023 Executive Committee meeting
 - 5.3 Approval of minutes of January 4, 2023 Executive Committee meeting Closed session
 - 5.4 Approval of minutes of January 5, 2023 Executive Committee meeting
 - 5.5 Approval of minutes of January 5, 2023 Executive Committee meeting Closed session
 - 5.6 Approval of minutes of January 4, 2024 Executive Committee meeting
Voitik moved for the approval of the consent agenda, Milavec seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.
6. Interview with candidate
All committee members introduced themselves and asked the questions that were sent to the candidate before the meeting. Yolande Wilburn, Executive Director at the Evanston Public Library talked about her experiences with the California Library Association and as a member of the BIPOC community. She thinks the major challenges facing libraries today are funding for operations, book challenges and ensuring open access to a diverse array of materials. She feels her experience working at a variety of libraries, large, small, rural, urban, suburban, academic and international gives her a unique perspective on the needs of libraries.
7. Next meeting
The next meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m. on January 17, 2024.
8. Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

**REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD MEETING
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.
Burr Ridge Service Center

Draft MINUTES

1. Welcome and Call to Order
Alex Vancina, President of the RAILS Board called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. at the RAILS Burr Ridge service center.
2. Roll Call of Committee Members
Emily Fister called the roll of the committee members:
Present at Burr Ridge: Alex Vancina, Gwen Gregory, Julie Milavec, Karen Voitik and Rene Leyva.
3. Recognition of guests and announcements
Guests at Burr Ridge: Monica Harris, Dan Bostrom
Zoom: Stephanie Nissen, Emily Fister-designated minute taker
4. Public comments
There were no public comments.
5. Adoption of Agenda
Gregory moved for the adoption of the agenda, Voitik seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.
6. Interview with candidate
All committee members introduced themselves and asked questions that were sent to the candidate before the meeting. Stephanie Nissen, Student Success Librarian/Assistant Professor at Rockford University spoke of her experience in both public and academic libraries in Illinois. She found RAILS an invaluable resource as a new library director. She feels RAILS has a role to provide support and leadership regarding challenges to programs and collections. She recommends RAILS have a development a resource-sharing component of staff in-service days. Stating that many library staff develop their own expertise that they could share with RAILS membership.
7. Next meeting
The next meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. on January 17, 2024.
8. Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

**REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD MEETING
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.
Burr Ridge Service Center

Draft MINUTES

1. Welcome and Call to Order
Alex Vancina, President of the RAILS Board called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. at the RAILS Burr Ridge service center.
2. Roll Call of Committee Members
Emily Fister called the roll of the committee members:
Present at Burr Ridge: Alex Vancina, Gwen Gregory, Julie Milavec, Karen Voitik, Rene Leyva.
3. Recognition of guests and announcements
Guests at Burr Ridge: Monica Harris, Dan Bostrom, Joslyn Bowling Dixon
via Zoom: Emily Fister-designated minute taker
4. Public comments
There were no public comments.
5. Adoption of Agenda
Voitik moved for the adoption of the agenda, Milavec seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.
6. Interview with candidate
All committee members introduced themselves and asked questions that were sent to the candidate before the meeting. Joslyn Bowling Dixon, Executive Director of the Oak Park Public Library reported on her experiences in working in four different states. She thinks it is important to assist in diversifying the profession and provide opportunities for advancement and ways to attend library school. She was a member of the Urban Libraries Council, and served as a Councilor-At-Large for the American Library Association. She feels that in order to be “future ready” Artificial Intelligence should be embraced. She is proud that Oak Park Public Library is a recognized national model for EDI best practices in action which is reflected in programming, hiring practices, and collections.
7. Discussion of interview and recommendation of a candidate to fill the vacancy of Robin Helenthal
The committee members discussed the candidates and agreed that any of the candidates would make an excellent board member. Suggestions were made that those candidates not chosen could run in the upcoming election or serve on a RAILS committee. A straw poll was conducted and a winner was selected. Milavec moved to recommend Yolande Wilburn to fill the position of the at-large library seat to the full RAILS board, Leyva seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Vancina proposed that due to the abbreviated length of this term, Ms. Wilburn be invited to the January 26 board meeting and after the board accepts the recommendation, take the oath of office and be seated. No one had any objections.

8. Next Steps

Fister will get Vancina information so that he can contact all three candidates. Stephanie Nissen will be invited to serve on the RAILS Advocacy Committee.

9. Next meeting

No date was set for the next committee meeting.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m.