



REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD MEETING

Friday, March 22 2024

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Alex Vancina, RAILS Board President called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. on Friday, March 22, 2024 at the RAILS Burr Ridge service center.

2. Roll Call of Members

Fister called the roll of the Board members.

Burr Ridge: Monica Caldicott, Rosie Camargo, Jean Carroll, Alice Creason, Gwen Gregory, Rene Leyva, Alex Vancina, Vanessa Villarreal, Karen Voitik, Yolande Wilburn and Catherine Yanikoski

East Peoria: Dianne Hollister, Tom Stagg

Absent: Jennifer Hovanec, Julie Milavec

3. Recognition of Guests

Guests in Burr Ridge: Monica Harris, Joe Filapek, Sharon Swanson, Galin Iliev, Mark Hatch, Laura Nemeth, Kate Niehoff, Dan Bostrom, Leanne Furby (IHLS).

Guests in Zoom: Anne Slaughter, Sam Daly, Wes Smith, Leila Heath, Barb Miller, Anna Yackle (IHLS), Greg McCormick -Illinois State Library, Emily Fister-note taker.

4. Public comments and announcements

There were no public comments.

5. Consent agenda

Adoption of the Agenda

5.1 Adoption of the Agenda

5.2 RAILS Board Minutes of February 23, 2024 Regular Meeting

5.3 Approval of Disbursements: February 2024

Leyva moved for the approval of the consent agenda with an amendment to move to 9.1 iLEAD Portal Demonstration to after the 6.0 financial report. Carroll seconded and a roll call vote was taken: Monica Caldicott, Rosie Camargo, Jean Carroll, Alice Creason, Gwen Gregory, Dianne Hollister, Rene Leyva, Tom Stagg, Alex Vancina, Karen Voitik, Yolande Wilburn, Catherine Yanikoski. Nays: None

6. RAILS Financial Report

Swanson reported that the financial statements are preliminary and unaudited reports and the February 29 fund cash and investment balance of \$25.9 million would fund

an estimated 22.7 months of budgeted FY2024 operations. General Fund revenues through February were approximately \$406,000 above budget partially due to increased interest income. General Fund expenditures through February were \$903,000 below budget Lower Library Materials expenditures for group purchases, normal hiring delays for open positions, and timing differences between budgeted and actual e-resources expenditures. The recabling project for the Burr Ridge facility came under budget by \$7,500. Four additional delivery vans were delivered in February, which is the 7th of the eight vans received from our order. Two of the five box trucks ordered will be delivered this week.

7. Reports

7.1 Report from the RAILS President

Tom Stagg as Chair will be joined by Jennifer Hovanec, Ashley Huffines, Executive Director of the Freeport Public Library, Karen Lonergan, Director of the Cordova District Library, and Michelle Simmons, Outreach and Engagement Librarian from Western Illinois University. Nominations for the Board opened on Tuesday, March 19 and the deadline for nominations is Friday, April 19, at 5 p.m. Two at-large seats and three public library trustee seats are open for this election.

7.2 RAILS Board Committee Reports - Committee Chairs

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

7.2.1 Advocacy Committee - Monica Caldicott

7.2.2 Consortia Committee - Thomas Stagg

7.2.3 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee - Dianne Hollister

7.2.4 Executive Committee - Alex Vancina

7.2.5 Nominating Committee - Thomas Stagg

7.2.6 Policy Committee - Gwen Gregory

7.2.7 Resource Sharing Committee - Becky Spratford

7.2.8 Universal Service Committee - Alice Creason

7.3 RAILS Reports

7.3.1 RAILS Monthly Report

Harris reported she attended the most recent Illinois Library Association's Public Policy Committee meeting on March 4th and lobbyist Derek Blaida highlighted important deadlines for the state legislature, noting the expectation that there will not be much movement through the March 19th primary and that things will pick up significantly after the Easter holiday. ILA has published a list of the bills they are [monitoring](#) if you have an interest in following these changes. The joint board meeting with Heartland is postponed and we hope to get together in the fall. We still hope to be in Bloomington and with the new dates hopefully we can use the newly renovated Bloomington Public Library. A survey with possible dates will be sent to both boards next week. She reported that RAILS is working with AISLE, ILA and IHLS on questions regarding [Public Act 103-0100](#) which became effective on January 1, and hearing from school member libraries with questions about how they can be compliant with the new law. The move to the new Rockford location is going well and will be completed by the end of the

month. RAILS awarded five Continuing Education Grants that will be available through L2 in the coming weeks.

7.4 Illinois State Library Report

Greg McCormick reported that the State Library and the Illinois Association of School Boards will also be developing resources to help make schools compliant with [Public Act 103-0100](#). The Secretary of State has \$3 million in the FY24 budget for Open Educational Resources funding and the State Library has received the first grant application, all are due at the end of the month. They are in the final stages of approving the FY24 Public Library per capita grants and the awards will be announced in April. The State Library is very busy with visitors and facilitating meetings with the General Assembly in session. McCormick reported they are closely watching the federal funding of the FY25 Institute of Museum and Library Services which in turn funds the Illinois Library Systems. The RFP responses are due next week for the e-resources and database packages. They are looking forward to reviewing the RAILS Operational Plan due June 1st.

8. New business

8.1 Revised charge for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee

Filapek reported that the charge for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee needed to be updated. The changes included: language specifying the appointment process and schedule for seating committee members; Updating the membership section to incorporate both member library representatives and networking group/partner organizations as ex-officio committee and several activity suggestions that align with the current RAILS strategic plan priorities related to EDI. Leyva moved to approve the revised charge, Voitik seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

8.2 Executive Director Evaluation Process

Vancina reported that the process was included in the packet to inform the Board of the procedure in place for the evaluation of the Executive Director.

9. Board Development

9.1 iLEAD Portal Demonstration Leanne Furby, Anna Yackle

Furby and Yackle thanked the Illinois State Library for the funding that made the iLEAD Portal possible. The iLEAD trustee learning portal was created to break down the Illinois statutes for public trustees. The current modules provide resources and best practices on topics like the Open Meeting Act, policies and procedures, bylaws, roles and responsibilities, and working with the Library Director. New topics related to finance, planning, and community engagement will be added in early fall. Learning topics are divided into self-led modules and completed asynchronously when convenient for trustees' schedules. Trustees in Illinois can enroll at any time at no cost, and all user accounts will be eligible for annual renewal in September at no charge.

10. RAILS board member reports

Caldicott reported that the Vernon Hills High School library conducted a readers choice contest and a few students made a video announcing the winners. The winners were first, #murdertrending by Gretchen McNeil, and second: (tie) All My Rage by Sabaa Tahir and The Girls I've Been by Tess Sharpe, third: (tie) Be Not Far from Me by Mindy McGinnis, I

Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys, and Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir. She shared the video with Emily who will send it to the board. Villarreal shared that the Lake Villa District Library received an OSLAD (Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development) Grant and is becomes the first public library ever to be honored with this award. The grant is pivotal to the Library's Outdoor Space Project which evolved from community feedback gathered during strategic planning in spring 2021. Hollister attended the Illinois Reading Council and was asked to speak at a Bradley University program for Children's Book Awards called "And the Winner is...". The program is April 11 and the program announces the ALA award winners and the Illinois children's choice titles.

11. Next RAILS board meeting Friday, April 26, 2024

Vancina said the next meeting will be held on Friday, April 26, 2024 at 1 p.m. The agenda will include quarterly consortial reports, the draft of the of System Area and Per Capita Grant Application operational plan will be presented, RAILS service of the month will be RAILS Discounts/group purchases and the board development will be RAILS Digital Marketing and Communications Initiatives. Harris will forward her self-evaluation to the Board by April 15.

12. Closed Session

Vancina stated: The Board will move into closed session to discuss matters regarding employment, as per 5 Illinois Compiled Statutes, chapter 120, paragraph 2, section (c) 1, which states: *Exceptions. A public body may hold closed meetings to consider the following:* The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel to determine its validity.

Hollister motioned that the Board moved into closed session. The motion was seconded by Voitik and a roll call vote was taken: Monica Caldicott, Rosie Camargo, Jean Carroll, Alice Creason, Gwen Gregory, Dianne Hollister, Rene Leyva, Tom Stagg, Alex Vancina, Vanessa Villarreal, Karen Voitik, Yolande Wilburn, Catherine Yanikoski. Nays: None.

The meeting took a 10 minute break before moving to closed session.

At 2:35 p.m. Caldicott moved that the Board return to open session. Leyva seconded and a roll call vote was taken: Monica Caldicott, Rosie Camargo, Jean Carroll, Alice Creason, Gwen Gregory, Dianne Hollister, Rene Leyva, Tom Stagg, Alex Vancina, Vanessa Villarreal, Karen Voitik, Yolande Wilburn, Catherine Yanikoski. Nays: None.

13. Actions in follow-up to closed session

None.

14. Adjourn

Vancina adjourned the meeting at 2:38 p.m.