
DRAFT Minutes

RAILS Board Resource Sharing Committee Meeting

Monday, February 12, 2024 | 10:00 am

La Grange Public Library, Dierkes Meeting Room and Videoconference Sites

10 W Cossitt Ave, La Grange, IL 60525 | 630.734.5000

1. Welcome and Call to Order
Spratford, committee chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.
2. Roll Call of Members
Present at La Grange Public Library: Dr. Marlo Barnett (arrived at 10:04 am), Guillermo Gasca, Travis Givens, Laura Long, Julie Milavec, Jeanne Modelski, Becky Spratford
Present at Bloomington Public Library: Dianne Hollister
Present via Zoom: Amy Dodson
A quorum was present.
3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements
Guests at La Grange Public Library: Monica Harris, Barb Miller, Mary Kate Murray, Kate Niehoff
Guests via Zoom: Eric Bain, Rosie Camargo, Joe Filapek, Karen Goyer, Mark Hatch, Leila Heath, Stacy Palmisano, Wesley Smith

Filapek announced the hiring of Kate Niehoff as the new Director of Consulting and Continuing Education at RAILS.
4. Public Comments
There were no public comments.
5. Adoption of the Consent Agenda
 - 5.1. Adoption of the Agenda
 - 5.2. Approval of the RAILS Board Resource Sharing Committee Minutes of November 13, 2023
Long motioned and Modelski seconded the adoption of the agenda as presented, and the approval of the RAILS Board Resource Sharing Committee Minutes for November 13, 2023 with the amendment of two grammatical errors.

The motion was approved by unanimous vote.
Ayes: Barnett, Gasca, Givens, Hollister, Long, Milavec, Modelski, Spratford
Nays: None
6. Reports
 - 6.1. RAILS Report

Filapek reported that RAILS received seven of eight new transit vans in January that are already in use at the Coal Valley, East Peoria, Rockford, and Bolingbrook service centers. Hatch is still waiting on the delivery of box trucks. Three catalog membership grants were awarded at the end of the 2023 calendar year. Waukegan Public and Mount Prospect Public Libraries will be joining CCS and Winnebago Public Library will join PrairieCat. The final application deadline for that grant is April 15, 2025. Annual Certification is underway. All library system members must re-certify to renew a system membership and to comply with Illinois administrative codes. Filapek stated that upon the completion of Certification, RAILS will work on contacting libraries who have not updated their non-resident fee information, which is a requirement for public libraries participating in the non-resident fee card program. Libraries have been asked to update their system delivery contacts updated in L2 so that delivery notifications are routed to the appropriate person. Filapek noted the upcoming RAILS Member Update on February 14 at 1:00pm.

6.2. Find More Illinois Report

Miller gave an overview of the Find More Illinois (FMI) program, an interlibrary loan platform that allows all participating libraries to borrow seamlessly from one another. All library types are welcome to, and do, participate. Currently, FMI has 4.9 million holdings and 2.9 million bib records. Miller explained the history of the program and its growth. In 2023, FMI processed 10,311 items and welcomed 42 new participating libraries, including all of the CCS consortium, bringing the total number of libraries up to 92. From 2018, at the inception of the program, through 2023, Find More Illinois has experienced a 283% increase in total participating libraries, a 300% increase in participating public libraries, a 200% increase in participating school libraries, a 100% increase in participating academic libraries, 100% increase in participating special libraries, and a 1,612% increase in transactions. Plans for 2024 include reevaluating the tiered fee system, evaluating the enhanced borrowing project, and focusing on marketing, especially to academic libraries. Academic libraries are shying away from FMI based on the current pricing structure. Gasca recommended highlighting the ability for academic libraries to access popular titles more easily if they join Find More Illinois. Miller noted that special libraries may be more inclined to join if larger academic libraries were part of the program.

7. Unfinished Business

7.1. Statewide Online Educational Resources Program Update

Harris reported that the Secretary of State included \$5 million in this year's budget for a statewide database program intended for use by anybody in the state of Illinois, including the unserved; the program is currently in procurement. Similar programs in Indiana, Michigan, and New York are being investigated as possible models for the Illinois program. Resources are expected to include full text databases of general interest. The RFP proposes a 3-year contract with seven single-year renewals, requiring a 10-year commitment within the first contract. Training, documentation, and marketing materials will be included for the state library and the library community. The current goal for RFP evaluation is March, 2024. Harris noted that in 2021, the Illinois State Library filed an administrative rule that allowed public libraries to grant access to e-resources to non-residents during their pandemic closures. The state library has made their own filing and hopes to be able to give e-resource library cards to all unserved Illinois residents. RAILS encourages member libraries to maintain their current procedures for budgeting and database services until the program is fully available.

8. New Business

8.1. RAILS Resource Sharing Plan Review

The RAILS Resource Sharing Plan was last updated in 2018. Filapek requested feedback on the plan during this meeting. Revisions will be made for review at the next Resources Sharing Committee meeting. The plan will then be passed to the policy committee, followed by RAILS board approval, and, finally, approval by the Illinois State Library. Filapek went through the plan section by section, noting that outdated links or small semantic changes throughout the document will be updated. In Section II, Filapek noted the requirement that “all RAILS members shall include their resources sharing policies as part of their library’s record on the Library Learning (L2) website,” is not being fully followed by member libraries. Gasca suggested that uploading resource sharing plans be included in the Certification requirement; Spratford suggested sending out an annual checklist that libraries can review to ensure they are complying with required information. The committee agreed on the inclusion of strong language around this requirement. Discussion highlighted the importance of establishing a clear baseline for Reciprocal Access expectations within the RAILS Resource Sharing Plan. Hollister noted the importance of marketing reciprocal access to library patrons across library types. Filapek mentioned that the following statement in Section IV should be investigated to determine its relevance: “No library may charge a fee to any statewide reciprocal borrower that is not charged to the library’s patrons or system-wide reciprocal borrower unless the fee was in effect on July 1, 2014.” The committee agreed that the statement, “All reciprocal borrowing patrons will be treated the same,” in Section V should remain, and the statement regarding library cards should be revised to reflect current usage. Filapek said that the Interlibrary State Library’s Interlibrary Loan Code in Section VI should be updated when that update is made at ISL. Section VII should be edited to include a reference to the Cards for Kids Act. Spratford requested that a statement be added to the document that directs the committee to review the Resource Sharing Plan every three years. Comments may be emailed to Mary Kate Murray (mary.murray@railslibraries.org) prior to the meeting in May.

9. Meeting Recap and Agenda Building

The next RAILS Board Resource Sharing Committee Meeting is on May 6, 2024, at 10:00 am. Agenda items for the next meeting will include an update on the statewide online educational resources and a possible vote on the RAILS Resource Sharing Plan.

10. Adjournment

Spratford adjourned the meeting at 11:42 am.