
Approved July 11, 2024

RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting

May 9, 2024 | 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Harris welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call of Members

Goyer called the roll of the committee members:

Present:

RAILS Burr Ridge: Jean Carroll, Yolande Wilburn

Lewis University: Alice Creason, Amy Walsh

Rockford University: Stephanie Nissen

Engineering Systems, Inc: Catherine Yanikoski

Absent: Monica Caldicott

3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements

Guests in attendance at RAILS Burr Ridge: Joe Filapek (ex-officio), Monica Harris (ex-officio), Karen Goyer (minute-taker)

Guests in attendance via Zoom: Dan Bostrom (ex-officio)

New committee member, Yolande Wilburn, was welcomed and introduced to the group.

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 Advocacy Committee Minutes of March 14, 2024

Creason moved for the approval of the consent agenda, Nissen seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

6. New Business

6.1. Safety and Security at Libraries

Harris gave an overview of safety and security in libraries. There are unique challenges and considerations for each type of library or situation when developing an emergency plan.

Emergencies include natural disasters, technological failures, and human-caused events like civil disorder and active shooter situations. To prepare, libraries can create a disaster plan, hold regular

training sessions for staff, build relationships with local emergency officials, develop documentation and incident report procedures, and have a detailed plan for communicating with the public and staff. Harris outlined the status of emergency management in relation to Illinois libraries. While safety and security in libraries is not in the current RAILS strategic plan, RAILS has provided opportunities for members to find information through listservs, member update meetings, and networking events. RAILS serves as an advisor to an IMLS grant project investigating partnerships between libraries and emergency response partners during emergencies. HB 4567, which allows for stronger penalties for threatening a library employee, is stalled but may be revisited in the fall session.

Committee members identified ways RAILS can assist libraries: provide a toolkit, a list of resources for mental health training for library staff, identify a tool that would track related multiple incidents and provide a witness report form. Mental health training can be time-consuming and expensive. More research is needed on training options. Filapek suggested advocating for funding for security in libraries.

6.2. FY2025 RAILS Advocacy Committee Meeting Schedule (action requested)

Wilburn moved for the approval of the FY2025 RAILS Advocacy Committee Meeting Schedule, Carroll seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

7. Reports

7.1. Legislative and Advocacy Update

Harris reported on the ILA Public Policy committee meeting as well as the status of ongoing projects, [bills](#), and the state budget. Relating to safety and security in libraries, ILA encourages everyone to contact their local representative to let them know they support HB 4567. Secretary of State Giannoulas met with a group of public library directors and plans to meet with representatives of other library types. It was noted that the Intellectual Freedom response team was instrumental in a favorable outcome concerning the Reader's Choice Awards issue in Milburn School District 24. There are ongoing efforts around [federal funding for libraries](#).

7.2. AISLE Advocacy Committee Report

Walsh reported the AISLE Advocacy committee continues to work on the issue of replacing retiring school librarians. She thanked RAILS for the follow-up support on each letter AISLE sends to school districts. Wilburn suggested the public library be notified of local school districts that have unfilled school librarian positions so they can advocate as well. The task force on certified school librarians will meet next week.

8. Unfinished Business

8.1. Library Issues Updates

Wilburn reported the LACONI Trustee banquet was a wonderful event.

9. Meeting Recap and Agenda Building for the Next RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting on July 11, 2024

The topic will be Collaboration with Specialized Libraries. Yanikoski will give a presentation about what specialized libraries experience and how RAILS can best support them.

10. Adjournment

Harris adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.