

Approved 9/19/24

Minutes

RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting

July 11, 2024 | 4:00 p.m.

125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527 | 630.734.5000

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
Engineering Systems, Inc.: Catherine Yanikoski
Lewis University: Alice Creason, Amy Walsh
Rockford University: Stephanie Nissen
Absent: Monica Caldicott, Yolande Wilburn
3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements
Guests in attendance at RAILS Burr Ridge: Dan Bostrom (ex-officio), Joe Filapek (ex-officio), Karen Goyer (minute-taker), Monica Harris (ex-officio)
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 May 9, 2024
Creason moved for the approval of the consent agenda, Carroll seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.
6. New Business
 - 6.1. Collaboration with Specialized Libraries
Yanikoski shared her perspective of the challenges and unique needs of specialized libraries, providing insight on how RAILS can support and advocate for specialized libraries. Common challenges include a narrow mission, budget constraints, and status of the library. Yanikoski noted the biggest opportunity to enhance service to specialized libraries is to provide a resource to share specialized materials to facilitate discovery and sharing of collections between academic and specialized libraries. It is important to make specialized librarians aware of the services, funding, and tools available to them. Yanikoski expressed appreciation to RAILS and the Illinois State Library for the support and services they provide.

7. Reports

7.1. Legislative and Advocacy Update

Harris reported that many of the bills of interest did not advance. The Acquisition of Treasurer Bonds for Libraries bill SB3563 was signed into law as of July 1st. This bill will reduce library expenditures. ILA members may submit legislative proposals on the ILA website.

7.2. AISLE Advocacy Committee Report

The AISLE advocacy committee did not meet. Walsh reported on the hiring of another librarian at Orland School District #135 after input from community members and advocacy efforts, according to a June 18, 2024 *Chicago Tribune* article titled "Librarians staffed below state recommended levels in some south suburban schools". The article mentioned the AISLE advocacy letter campaign and the RAILS SLATE dashboard.

7.3. ALA Annual Reports on Legislation and Intellectual Freedom Overview

Harris gave an overview of the annual reports of the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee, the Committee on Legislation, and Freedom to Read Foundation Report. The ALA Public Policy Committee's agenda focuses on funding national programs, support for Title IX rules, and support for libraries in K-12 schools and higher education. There has been additional discussion around the Right to Read Act. The federal Net Neutrality Order goes into effect on July 22, 2024.

8. Unfinished Business

8.1. Library Issues Updates

There were no topics for discussion.

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

The next Advocacy Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 4:00pm. The topic will be school libraries and certification and prioritizing FY2025 meeting topics. Members will send suggestions for future meeting topics to Karen Goyer.

10. Adjournment

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