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REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD MEETING

Friday, August 23, 2024 | 1:00 PM
RAILS Burr Ridge Service Center
125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527

Minutes

1. Welcome and Call to Order
Rene Leyva, RAILS Board President called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, August 23, 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, Jean Carroll, Jenny Cutshall, Anupam Goel, Gwen Gregory, Dianne Hollister, Jennifer Hovanec, Amanda Kowalcze, Rene Leyva, Julie Milavec, Karen Voitik, and Catherine Yanikoski
Absent: Emily Porter, Alex Vancina, Vanessa Villarreal-Kraenzle
3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements -
Guests in Burr Ridge: Monica Harris, Dan Bostrom, Joe Filapek, Mark Hatch, Sharon Swanson, Anne Slaughter, Kate Niehoff, Galin, Emily Fister (note-taker), Dr. Marlo Barnett
Guests on Zoom: Janette Derucki, Ryan Hebel, Courtney Soesbe
4. Public comments
There were no public comments.
5. Consent agenda
 - 5.1 Adoption of the Agenda
 - 5.2 RAILS Board Minutes of July 26, 2024 Special Meeting
 - 5.3 RAILS Board Minutes of July 26, 2024 Regular Meeting
 - 5.4 Approval of Disbursements: July 2024 – Sharon Swanson

Voitik moved and Gregory seconded to approve the consent agenda. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Monica Caldicott, Jean Carroll, Jenny Cutshall, Anupam Goel, Gwen Gregory, Dianne Hollister, Jennifer Hovanec, Amanda Kowalcze, Rene Leyva, Julie Milavec, Karen Voitik, and Catherine Yanikoski. Nays: none.
6. RAILS Financial Report
Swanson reported the financial reports for July include RAILS' general and capital projects funds statements, as well as separate statements for delivery operations and LLSAP support. Through July, revenues were \$755,533 below budget; expenditures through July were \$946,499 below budget. Investment income of \$126,433 through July was \$43,100 above

budget. Interest rates were budgeted at a blended rate of 4.25% to be conservative. July month end interest rates of 5.405% and 5.590% for the Illinois Funds and Hinsdale Bank Money Market accounts, respectively, increased slightly from the 5.420% and 5.640% reported as of June month-end. During July, RAILS paid \$61,264 from the capital projects fund and received the eleventh of thirteen total vehicles ordered during FY2024.

7. Reports

7.1 Report from the RAILS President

Leyva had no report.

7.2 RAILS Board Committee Reports - Committee Chairs

There were no additions or questions about the committee reports.

7.2.1 Advocacy Committee – Monica Caldicott

7.2.2 Consortia Committee – Alex Vancina

7.2.3 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee – Dianne Hollister

7.2.4 Executive Committee – Rene Leyva

7.2.5 Policy Committee – Gwen Gregory

7.2.6 Resource Sharing Committee – Julie Milavec

7.2.7 Universal Service Committee – Catherine Yanikoski

7.3 RAILS Reports

7.3.1 RAILS Monthly Report

Harris noted the Illinois State Library has approved the RAILS Area and Per Capita Grant application and Secretary Giannoulis added a statement regarding his continued support of libraries. RAILS and IHLS staff have tabled the idea of a joint board meeting in the fall and will pursue a purely social dinner/get-together for a few board members at the ILA conference in October. She reported that the news of the Western Illinois University layoffs of all nine of their library faculty members is extremely disappointing. RAILS is working with CARLI (Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois) and ILA (Illinois Library Association) to ensure one voice in responding to this issue. Filapek reported that the emergency power generator at the Burr Ridge facility needs to be repaired and currently have two cost estimates of \$8000. He said the replacement of the generator was identified in the Capital needs assessment that was completed in February 2024. He will keep the board apprised of the situation. Harris encouraged all to attend the RAILS Member Update on September 4th at 3pm which will focus on a presentation from Greg McCormick and Suzanna Jones from the Illinois State Library about the Statewide e-Resource Package, a report on how to advocate for school libraries from AISLE Executive Secretary Carolyn Kinsella, and an overview of the Agencies of Impact data report from RAILS' Janette Derucki. All are invited to attend the second Illinois School Library Workers Symposium on September 25. This is an online training for school library workers provided by RAILS, AISLE, ILA, and IHLS at no cost to individuals or school districts. Applications to attend are being accepted through August 30.

7.3.2 RAILS LLSAP Support Overview and Broadband Activity

Slaughter gave an overview of Local Library System Automation Programs (LLSAPs) including a [Board-approved LLSAP Definition](#), RAILS history and relationship of support with the LLSAPs, the percentage of RAILS members that are LLSAP members (37%) and 9% of RAILS members are nonautomated libraries. The RAILCAR Data Project collects key data about each LLSAP through the LLSAP Support Grant application so we can determine grant awards and analyze basic data points across the standardized zILLANE report. Two dashboards of RAILCAR data are linked from the [Data Analysis Pulse Page](#).

Slaughter talked about the expansion of Broadband in Illinois and the ideal to have libraries have access to affordable internet at speeds sufficient to meet their needs, and the ability to connect securely throughout their facilities. Digital Equity for Illinois is using libraries' existing contributions to digital equity are leveraged, and they have the capacity to meet community needs for digital skill development, access to devices and internet connections, and other digital inclusion mechanisms. RAILS is working with IHLS and CARLI to promote Digital Equity and creating networking and continuing education opportunities as well,

7.4 Illinois State Library Report- ISL Staff

There was no report.

8. New business

8.1 Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act Report for FY2024

Harris reviewed the report on the Freedom of Information Act requests received by RAILS in FY2024. The report included the calls for the [RAILS FOIA/OMA Hotline](#) with Attorneys as Ancel, Glink that all RAILS members can utilize.

8.2 RAILS Six-month Investment Portfolio Review FY2024

Courtney Soesbe, Senior Relationship Officer from PMA Financial Network, LLC, gave an overview of their products and investment services. She reviewed RAILS current investment portfolio which includes securities, certificates of deposit

8.3 Appointment of IMRF Authorized Agent

Harris reported that she took over the job of Authorized Agent for IMRF upon the retirement of Finance Director Jim Kregor. The Agent is central point of contact for all business between RAILS and IMRF.

Milavec moved that the Resolution designating Sharon Swanson as the IMRF Authorized Agent for RAILS be approved. Goel seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

9. New business

9.1 Board Committee Assignments

Harris said the updated committee list and dates for each committee were sent to the board. She mentioned there is an opening on the Resource Sharing Committee and to let her know if you are interested in serving. She said that all Board members are welcome to attend any

committee meeting even if they are not members of the Committee. She reported the EDI Committee is going to undergo some changes. It was started two years ago with much interest but now is having difficulty getting a quorum. RAILS is currently evaluating the committee and will have more information on the changes in September.

10. Board Development

10.1 Agencies of Impact Report

Derucki reviewed the new resource for Library Advocacy. *Illinois Libraries: Agencies of Impact, a Data Study* is a booklet designed to assist libraries in diving deep into the quantifiable impact of Illinois libraries. The report can be used by library workers, board members, and community advocates, to help showcase return on investment, staffing expertise, and community reach. The report used information from over 25 public and private data sources and examines five areas: Economic Impact, Logistics, Local Attraction/Destination, Information Provider and Professional Impact. Harris said copies of the study are going to all RAILS members and encourages all to share the study with those who are disconnected from libraries. This data study can be viewed as a [flipbook-style PDF on the My Library Is... website under “talking points” and can also be downloaded.](#)

11. RAILS board member report

Hollister reported that the petition for an ILA retiree’s Forum was successful. She is excited about this new approach of continuing connections with retired librarians. Hovanec shared that the Village of La Grange is issuing a proclamation naming September National Library Card sign-up month. All are welcome to attend the board meeting on September 9 at 730 p.m. Various Library dignitaries are speaking and following the meeting all are invited to the local brewery. Milavec reported that the Downers Grove library is partnering with the School district to get library cards in the hands of all school kids by being a part of the registration packet. They added over 2200 new cardholders through the program.

12. Meeting recap and agenda building

The next Board meeting will be held on Friday, September 27, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the newly renovated Bloomington Public Library. The day will begin with a tour of the library at a time to be determined. The networking and lunch are at 1130 a.m. Included on the agenda will be the RAILS Delivery Update and Cyndi Robinson will give an overview of the Illinois Library Association.

13. Adjourn

Leyva adjourned the meeting at 3:21 p.m.