

Approved 1/9/25

## Minutes

### **RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting**

November 14, 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, Yolande Wilburn  
Lewis University: Alice Creason  
Rockford University: Stephanie Nissen  
Shorewood-Troy Public Library: Karen Voitik  
Absent: Monica Caldicott, Dianne Hollister, Amy Walsh, Catherine Yanikoski
3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements – Monica Harris  
Guests at RAILS Burr Ridge: Joe Filapek (ex-officio), Karen Goyer (minute-taker), Kate Hall, Monica Harris (ex-officio), Kate Niehoff  
Guests at Rockford University: Emily Porter (RAILS Board)  
Guests via Zoom: Dan Bostrom (ex-officio), Jennifer Cutshall (RAILS Board), Anupam Goel (RAILS Board)
4. Public Comments – Monica Harris  
There were no public comments.
5. Adoption of the Consent Agenda – Monica Harris (action requested)
  - 5.1. Adoption of the Agenda
  - 5.2. Approval of the RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Minutes of September 19, 2024  
Wilburn moved for the approval of the consent agenda, Creason seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

## 6. New Business

### 6.1. Public Library Crisis Communication

Kate Hall, Director of Northbrook Public Library, spoke about crisis communication and managing challenges revolving around a patron request to book a room to show a film. Negative feedback and threats to the library resulted in staff and patron concerns about safety. Hall shared the steps taken regarding communication strategy, legality, safety and security, next steps, and provided resources. It is important to not only have a plan and policy in place but to have contact information for people and organizations that can help, such as local government, police, community leaders, legislators, Illinois State Library, Illinois Library Association, and RAILS. Building relationships in advance of a crisis is an important tool. Committee members suggested a crisis handbook template be developed and shared with libraries. The regional response team was also discussed.

### 6.2. ILA Legislative Meetups

Registration for the ILA legislative meetups will close soon. This event is an opportunity to connect directly with legislators to discuss issues libraries are experiencing.

## 7. Reports

### 7.1. Legislative and Advocacy Update

The ILA Public Policy Committee legislative agenda for 2025 has been approved by the ILA Executive Board. The agenda includes fully funding FY2026 state appropriations, increase minimum compensation reporting amount to \$125,000, free internet for public libraries unserved or underserved by high-speed broadband, and a certified school librarian in every school. There is continued focus on 2024 priorities such as raising the competitive bid threshold and the Equitable Access to Electronic Literature Act. Feedback from libraries suggests other areas to focus on are support for city libraries, consolidation of municipal libraries, support for SB 3965 (Adequate and Equitable Public University Funding Act), revisions to OMA, and improvements to the PPC proposal process to include more opportunities for feedback from ILA members.

### 7.2. AISLE Advocacy Committee Report

There was no report.

## 8. Unfinished Business

### 8.1. School Libraries and Certification

The AISLE Advocacy Committee would like feedback on a proposal to expand the letter campaign to include public library support for the hiring of certified school librarians. This committee agreed with the proposal and suggested the letter campaign could be expanded to reach out to legislators, library trustees and all public libraries regardless of whether there is a vacancy in the school district. A letter template to send to legislators that outlines library priorities and how it impacts the sender was suggested.

#### 8.2. FY2025 Agenda Topics

Members were asked to decide on one or two projects to begin working on. It was agreed the priorities are crisis communication, a “How to Contact Your Legislator” program, and support for library directors under fire by the public or board. These topics could be presented as a program series. Harris will identify projects RAILS can work on based on these topics.

#### 8.3. Library Issues Updates

There were no topics for discussion.

#### 9. Meeting Recap and Agenda Building for the Next RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting on January 9, 2025.

The next Advocacy Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 4:00 pm. The topic will be materials challenges and the Regional Rapid Response Team.

#### 10. Adjournment

Harris adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.