



**REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD MEETING  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.  
Burr Ridge Service Center

**draft MINUTES**

1. Welcome and Call to Order  
Rene Leyva, President of the RAILS Board called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. on Thursday, December 19, 2024.
2. Roll Call of Committee Members  
Fister called the roll of the Committee:  
Present at Burr Ridge: Rene Leyva, Jean Carroll  
Present on Zoom: Jennifer Hovanec, Catherine Yanikoski  
Present at NIU Founders Memorial Library: Gwen Gregory  
Absent: None
3. Recognition of guests and announcements  
Burr Ridge: Monica Harris, Emily Fister-designated minute taker  
Guests on Zoom: none  
Guests at NIU Founders Memorial Library: none
4. Public comments  
There were no public comments.
5. Adoption of agenda  
Gregory Carroll moved to adopt the agenda. Carroll seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Ayes: Leyva, Gregory, Carroll, Hovanec, Yanikoski. Nays: none. The motion carried.
6. Interview with Candidate #1  
Candidate Sonya Harrington joined the meeting via Zoom. Leyva welcomed Harrington and the committee and staff members introduced themselves. Leyva and the committee members took turns asking Harrington a set of questions. Harrington expressed her passion for libraries and her desire to assist in spreading the word about the resources and programming available. Harrington emphasized the importance of communication in achieving the goals of the RAILS board, particularly in areas of resource sharing and equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion.

## 7. Discussion of Interview

The committee members discussed all three candidates and the content of their answers and relevant experience. The group voted to identify their preferred candidate after further discussion. The Committee agreed that any of the three candidates would be a welcome addition to the RAILS Board.

Yanikoski moved and Carroll seconded to recommend to the RAILS board the appointment of Carolyn Sennett fill the Public Trustee board seat vacated by Vanessa Villareal.

Ayes: Leyva, Gregory, Carroll, Hovanec, Yanikoski. Nays: none. The motion carried.

There were no objections to inviting the candidate to the January 24 board meeting and after the board acceptance, Sennett would take the oath of office.

## 8. Next Steps

Leyva will contact both the successful and unsuccessful candidates. After they have been contacted and acknowledged receipt of either the email or phone call do we release the name of the successful candidates via enews, social media and our website.

Harris announced the news of the resignation of Anupam Goel from the RAILS Board.

Gregory left the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

The nominating committee discussed the vacant public library trustee seat and whether to fill it through appointment or place it on the upcoming election ballot. There were differing opinions on the best approach, considering factors like diversity, geographic representation, and the interview process.

Yanikoski left the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

The executive committee will meet to recommend a direction to the full board, either appointing from the previous candidate pool, reopening nominations, or putting the seat up for election. This approach aims to provide more information to the board before a decision is made.

## 9. Next meeting

Fister will send possible dates for the next committee meeting.

## 10. Adjourn

Leyva adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.