

Minutes

RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting

March 13, 2025 | 4:00 p.m.

RAILS Burr Ridge and Videoconference Sites

125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527 | 630.734.5000

1. Welcome and Call to Order
Carroll welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.
2. Roll Call of Members
Goyer called the roll of the committee members:
Present:
RAILS Burr Ridge: Jean Carroll, Yolande Wilburn
Engineering Systems, Inc.: Catherine Yanikoski
Lewis University: Alice Creason, Amy Walsh
Shorewood-Troy Public Library: Karen Voitik
Absent: Monica Caldicott, Dianne Hollister, Stephanie Nissen
3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements
Guests at RAILS Burr Ridge: Dan Bostrom (ex-officio), Joe Filapek (ex-officio), Karen Goyer (minute-taker), Monica Harris (ex-officio), Ashley Stewart
Guests via Zoom: Ryan Hebel, Mary Kate Murray, Carolyn Sennett
Harris welcomed the newly appointed RAILS Board member, Carolyn Sennett, to the meeting.
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 January 9, 2025
Wilburn moved for the approval of the consent agenda, Creason seconded. The motion was not approved.
6. New Business
 - 6.1. Speaking With Legislators
Ashley Stewart, EveryLibrary Campaign Strategist, gave a presentation titled Speaking with Legislators. The presentation covered political psychology, planning, strategy, messaging, and

resources related to library advocacy. Discussion included the importance of keeping the community informed, inviting legislators to the library for events or to hold office hours, and the need for library trustee training concerning advocacy.

6. Reports

7.1. Illinois Legislative and Advocacy Update

Harris reported on the ILA Public Policy committee meetings focused on the [bills](#) that the Illinois Library Association is watching. Bills to note are on the topics of community health, the bidding threshold, opioid antagonists, emergency grants, newspaper notifications, library trustee requirements, and the task forces on school librarians and accreditation and university libraries.

7.2. ALA Annual Reports on Legislation and Intellectual Freedom Overview

Harris gave an overview of the ALA annual reports. The Intellectual Freedom Committee report features book challenges data. The Committee on Legislation report topics include support for library workers, promoting pathways to librarianship, public service loan forgiveness, selection of IMLS director, and legislative updates. The Freedom to Read Foundation report focused on legal decisions and developing issues.

7.3. AISLE Advocacy Committee Report

Walsh was not in attendance at this time and did not report.

8. Unfinished Business

8.1. Library Issues Updates

Wilburn stated that Northbrook Public Library will allow a group to show the program that was previously challenged. Carroll noted there are several people running for the open trustee seats at Talcott Free Library.

9. Meeting Recap and Agenda Building for the Next RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting on May 8, 2025

The next Advocacy Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, May 8th at 4 pm. The topic will be Crisis Communication Plans.

10. Adjournment

Carroll adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.