

Draft Minutes

RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting

May 8, 2025 | 4:00 p.m.

RAILS Burr Ridge Service Center
125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527

1. Welcome and Call to Order
Carroll 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
Cook Memorial Public Library District Aspen Drive Library: Monica Caldicott, Carolyn Sennett
Engineering Systems, Inc.: Catherine Yanikoski
Lewis University: Alice Creason, Amy Walsh
Rockford University: Stephanie Nissen
Shorewood-Troy Public Library District: Karen Voitik
Absent: Dianne Hollister, Yolande Wilburn
3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements
Guests in attendance at RAILS Burr Ridge: Karen Goyer (minute-taker), Monica Harris (ex-officio)
Guests via Zoom: Dan Bostrom (ex-officio), Joe Filapek (ex-officio), Melissa Gardner, Mary Kate Murray
Harris welcomed Carolyn Sennett as a new member of the RAILS Advocacy Committee.
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
 - 5.3. Approval of the RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Minutes of March 13, 2025Voitik moved for the approval of the consent agenda, Creason seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

6. New Business

6.1. Crisis Communication Plans

Melissa Gardner, Executive Director of Palatine Public Library, shared the library's process of developing a crisis communication plan, the benefits of rehearsing the plan, and hiring an outside organization to draft the plan.

6.2. FY2026 Advocacy Committee Meeting Schedule

Voitik moved for the approval of FY2026 Advocacy Committee Meeting Schedule, Creason seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

7. Reports

7.1. Institute of Museum and Library Services Update

Harris gave an overview of the recent events concerning the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) agency and grants. RAILS maintains an IMLS Advocacy webpage with updates, tools and resources. It was reported that RSA data shows a reduction in delivery service would have a greater impact on small libraries. The IMLS update will be an ongoing agenda item.

7.2. Illinois Legislative and Advocacy Update

Harris reported on the status of legislation ILA is monitoring.

7.3. Aisle Advocacy Committee Report

Walsh reported on recent developments in legislation to create a school librarian task force. ISBE has requested to create their own task force, in place of the legislatively mandated task force.

8. Unfinished Business

8.1. Library Issues Updates

There were no updates for discussion.

9. Meeting Recap and Agenda Building for the Next RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting on July 10, 2025

The next Advocacy Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. The topic will be library association challenges and support.

10. Adjournment

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