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**REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD**

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING**

March 19, 2026 | 4:00 pm

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

**DRAFT MINUTES**

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Alex Vancina, Committee Chair of the RAILS Board Nominating Committee, called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm.

2. Roll Call of Committee Members

Palmisano called the roll of the committee members:

RAILS Burr Ridge: Emily Faulkner, Alex Vancina

Cook Memorial Public Library District: Monica Caldicott

Crystal Lake Public Library: Charles Stump

Absent: Victoria Blackburn, Anne Thomason

3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements

Burr Ridge: Monica Harris, Stacy Palmisano (designated note taker)

Crystal Lake Public Library: Becky Fyolek

Zoom: Dan Bostrom, Ola Gronski

All meeting participants introduced themselves. Vancina thanked the members for their service on the committee.

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

5.1. Adoption of agenda

5.2. Approval of minutes of the May 29, 2025, Nominating Committee meeting

Faulkner moved to approve the consent agenda. Caldicott seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

6. Committee Responsibilities

Harris reviewed the nominations section of the RAILS Bylaws and highlighted that the committee shall make every effort to recruit diverse, equitable, and inclusive candidates to

represent the diverse membership of RAILS libraries.

7. RAILS Board Job Description

The RAILS board is composed of 15 individuals from member libraries within the RAILS 27,000-square-mile area, all of whom are legal residents. The makeup of the 15-member board is as follows: eight board members from public libraries, one individual employed by an academic library, one individual employed by a school library, one individual employed by a special library, and lastly, four individuals elected at large. The at-large seats are currently held by a person who is employed or a current member of the governing board of a RAILS public, academic, school, or special library. Harris encouraged the committee members to reach out to their networks, focusing on candidates outside Chicagoland. The general requirement for a board member is to attend 11 board meetings, either in person or from a public location, and to serve on at least one committee.

8. Review of Nomination Form

Bostrom reported that the board nomination announcement was in the RAILS e-newsletter yesterday, March 19, 2026. To access the form, a person must have a Library Directory & Learning Calendar (L2) account. A person must affiliate with a RAILS member library to obtain an L2 account. Bostrom reviewed the form outline and the candidate questions. The committee requested that additional descriptor language be added to the “add your own” identifiers within the ethnic diversity section. Bostrom stated that this change to the form will be made immediately. Gronski will create a profile for each candidate, including a photo.

Caldicott motioned for the approval of the RAILS Nomination form. Stump seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

9. Recruitment of Board Candidates

Bostrom provided the committee with suggestions for recruiting board candidates, including becoming familiar with the job description, sharing the announcement with their network, attending events where they can talk with library staff, and re-sharing RAILS’ social media posts. Friday, April 17, is the last day to accept nominations. Gronski will contact all candidates regarding completing the form questions in a video format, which will be posted on the RAILS website. This year, a more detailed election guide will be sent to all RAILS member agencies, listing all candidates, outlining who can vote, and including an FAQ section.

10. Discuss Timeline and Schedule of Remaining Meetings

The nomination timeline was included in the meeting documents, with no questions or changes requested. The committee will meet next on April 30 and on June 3. On the April

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meeting's agenda, there will be a review of the nominations and a discussion on the proposed ballot.

11. Adjourn

Vancina adjourned the meeting at 4:46 pm.