

MARINet Governing Board – Meeting Minutes

Oct. 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Present: Henry Bankhead (SRPL, Chair), Franklin Escobedo (LRK, Vice Chair), Abbot Chambers (SAU), Chantel Walker (MCFL), Linda Kenton (SAN), Gary Gorka (DUC), Joey Della Santina (BET), Anji Brenner (MVY), Dan McMahon (MNET), Sarah Frye (COM), Jessica Trenary (MNET), Julie Magnus (MCFL)

Guests: Bill Hale

Meeting called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chair.

Public Comment: Overdrive and the Libby app are causing problems for the trailing edge folks with older phones and other devices. Unlike the last time this happened, there was no notification from Overdrive on this one.

Minutes from Sept. 16, 2021: Motion made to approve, seconded, the minutes are approved unanimously.

1. Old Business:

- a. RFID: We're still waiting for the media tags to be delivered, we have tested samples though. It should be here at the beginning of next week, as well as the smaller USB pads. With the bigger pads we are waiting to make sure the pads aren't disconnecting when idle before putting in a big order. As soon as testing at Novato and Larkspur Libraries shows the connection is stable, we'll move ahead with the order

Thomas from Backstage Library Works (BSLW) is here in Marin and will start work on Nov. 1. He's getting to know the libraries this next week. Larkspur will tag their kits the same as DVDs. SRPL won't be marking items with red dots, they don't want to deface items. If libraries tag their magazines this will add to the ultimate cost. We pay BSLW only for items tagged, and we'll track how close to the quote numbers we are with the weekly reports from Thomas of BSLW.

- b. New meeting times: Marin County department heads meet the same day and same time as the MARINet Board Meeting (MBM). So that MCFL's Director can attend the MBM, what other options do we have? An afternoon slot on the same day? Mornings? Dan can use a Doodle poll to find a time to propose, then the board can discuss it. And from the Board, kudos are given to Chantel for representing MCFL at the Board this year.
- c. Retreat planning: The location will be Falkirk, 1/19 and 1/27 900 a.m. to 200 p.m. are both available. We'll have some breakfast items, and a catered lunch. Should we have a speaker? Discussion results with choice being the 27th. La Vierre for food? We could probably get Patty Wong, head of the ALA to speak if it works with her schedule. Themes for discussion would include what have we learned from the pandemic? And our Overdrive perennially running low on money. Future planning would fit too, as this moment is an inflection point. Do we have a strategic plan? We could be discussing such a plan in the regular meetings. Let's keep the retreat future focused.

- d. The six new e-resources from the State Library have been set up and are ready to use. We tried to set up WAM for most of them, but none of the vendors seemed concerned with authentication. With these newer platforms, vendors aren't providing us with much in the way of authentication support anyway. There is a discussion of authentication, and that small vendors can't always support authentication. For some of these companies it's their first venture into public libraries.

Discussions of authentication also lead to a discussion of EZ Proxy as an option. It's explained that it won't solve the issues with these databases, as the vendors aren't offering even support for any proxy system (WAM or EZ Proxy) but it might solve other issues with the https or secure resources. Let's get a quote for EZ Proxy, it's available as either a service or as software.

Of the new resources, five will be posted to the MARINet site, the exception being Linked In Learning. Skillshare has 173 "memberships" so there will be limited seats, though if we run out, the State Library might be able to add more seats. (Signups last 3 months now, not 6.)

2. New business:

- a. PayPal: We've had an issue recently with paying service fees, as PayPal won't respond to requests to update their W-9 info in Munis as required. We've shifted to paying the monthly fees for the primary connector (\$54.10 a month) with the MARINet Cal Card, but just that change took many calls and many hours. Their support is probably good for disputed payments, but anything else is clearly not important. This is seriously the exact opposite of support. Long term, the bigger problem is that we can't verify ourselves as a real "business" to them sufficient to retrieve the \$29,000 in fines paid that have built up in our account. MARINet is working on it. (We need both validation and a bank account.)a
- b. MARINet wants to study eventually closing our second connector to pay fines, the BiblioCommons one, as it's costing us over \$6,000 annually, to take in not all that much more than that. As fines decrease, while we still need ways to pay replacements and lost items online, we may be able to simplify the payment mechanisms and reduce costs and complexity for ourselves.
- c. CWG Proposal – Raise Media Limits to 20: The Circ Working Group has a proposal to raise media limits for the "category a, b and c" items (DVDs, Music Cds and Books on CD) to 20 items for each type. So moved, seconded, passes unanimously.
- d. Non-action item: We need to have a celebration for Debbie Mazzolini by December. We can discuss this offline, but we need to schedule the surprise with her. Maybe lunch after the Dec. meeting? Are Directors still around on Dec. 16? The week of the 16th works for most people.
- e. Non-action item #2. Should we waive overdue fees in Sierra for Dominican? Yes, so we have 0 overdue fines in the system now. We will probably need to clear the "adjustments" fines as well, as these are returns on billed items, where the replacement fee disappears and becomes an overdue fine by another name.

Standing items:

- A. Equity Discussion: San Anselmo got a grant to be part of the CREI program. The GARE document (forwarded by Linda) encapsulated quite well a lot of the issues that libraries contend with. The Multicultural and Diversity movements didn't address outcomes or structural racism. San Anselmo realizes their community is 95% white, so how do POC feel encountering no staff like them? There seems to be lots of fear around the subject. Everyone here's bosses are attending conferences too, League of Cities, etc. so these conversations are happening at their level too.

The GARE document had lots of practical steps for such a theoretical report. Working to the middle, that's where change is going to happen. College of Marin is considering specific steps, get rid of security gates, highlight scholars of color in the library instruction programs, adjusting hours, looking at loaning out technology. Chantel points out, we've normalized the topic here and have a continued conversation about it. Now that overdue fines are gone, we should look at replacement charges, and the consistency with which they're applied. We learned from the fines that if we just keep working at it, eventually it happens.

- B. Systems Report: Classes for Sierra topics are very badly needed, judging by the signups for Create Lists. We have new projects with bringing Cenic to Northgate, and augmenting the WiFi at Marin City, as well as bandwidth monitoring for all endpoints.

Topics for future meetings:

- Replacement fines and processing fees, how they vary among libraries.
- Overdrive and e-book money.
- RFID.

Announcements:

- a. Dominican: The library has a new archivist, who is amazing. We're still going to hire another librarian.
- b. Larkspur: The library is now opening on Saturdays. This surprised nearby residents who were used to taking up the library's parking, especially until 6 p.m. We've already tagged up to the 300's and Large Print. Biographies and DVDs are done. We need more equipment to start tagging faster.
- c. Marin County: We've experienced supply chain issues with materials ordering, then we had an inundation when all the books that had been waiting came in. We'll be possibly doing meet and greets with Lana at the branches. This year is the 50th anniversary of the Corte Madera and Novato buildings. Local friends and library staff will be doing fun things. Finally, there's a big new garden project at Fairfax.
- d. Mill Valley: The library has expanded hours up to 6 days a week, though it's still curbside only on Sunday. Before doing anything more with hours, we are going to survey the public. We're eliminating fines, effective as of Oct. 4.
- e. San Anselmo: The library expanded hours the week of Oct 11, Mon., Weds., and Friday 10 to 4, Tuesday 12 to 6, Saturday 12 to 5, curbside on Thursdays. The schedule is stable for now, as there's no staff to expand further. Storytimes are still outside on Saturdays. Curbside on Thursday is still strong but nobody's asking for it on other days. And we are weeding madly in anticipation of RFID.

- f. San Rafael: We just released an opportunity for the community wellness intern. We're trying to do this instead of hiring a local security company. If you know of anyone interested.... We received a million dollar check from the State library in a Council meeting. We don't have to match it.
- g. Sausalito: Children's Librarian interviews are today, there are 2 candidates left. The interviews were masked and in person. The new Librarian will be tasked to engage with the Sausalito/Marin City School District. The Friends have donated \$30k for books at the new libraries, \$20k of which is spent. The library is looking at BiblioPlus, the new streaming service from Bibliotheca. The developer of BiblioPlus had developed Kanopy. The pricing model is a flat amount for unlimited usage. We should keep an eye on this, as it's potentially good for MARINet.

Shakeout: how are communications after a quake? 10:21 Gary has a ham radio license.

Move to adjourn, seconded, vote is unanimous. The meeting is adjourned at 11:21 a.m.