

## **MARINet Board Meeting – Minutes**

### **March 3, 2022 Online Meeting**

Present: Henry Bankhead (chair), Abbot Chambers, Lana Adlawan, Crystal Duran, Gary Gorka, Linda Kenton, Anji Brenner, Franklin Escobedo, Sarah Frye, Jessica Trenary, Dan McMahon  
Guests: none

The meeting is convened at 12:01 p.m.

Minutes from Jan. 27, 2022 meeting are approved without changes.

**RFID update:** Jessica reports that the USB pads have been shipped. (They were ordered in August.) The tagging is almost done at the city libraries and at College of Marin. We were able to add Larkspur and get some of that collection tagged. Thomas of Backstage Library Works (BSLW) taking a week off, then MCFL starts tagging. We've given the pads and instructions to MCFL Tech Support for them to install them. If we keep the MCFL part of project to 14 weeks, it'll come in under the amount we agreed to pay, so MARINet could cover it all with no additional bills to libraries.

Who's going to buy the tags going forward? And installing pads on new or replacement workstations? Historically, libraries have done this type of thing for themselves, so it's suggested they should service their own equipment and buy their own tags going forward. If there were significant cost savings to do the work centrally, fine, but there are not really any such savings. We should ask Bibliotheca to keep the price of pads the same for libraries. We can buy tags from any vendor. Look out for super cheap tags on Amazon, they're no good. We are currently paying 8.7 cents per tag, which is pretty good. MARINet has some tags to spare, not many, but when they're gone it's time for libraries to order them directly. Check with Jessica before ordering, we may have some.

**Processing fees:** The fees charged for processing on a replacement item bill vary from \$0 to \$3 to \$5, \$6, \$7 or \$8. Some libraries have gotten rid of, or intend to get rid of this charge, though one library is looking at keeping it, and just wants to waive it when appropriate. (When an item lost has gone out 100 times, they feel it's not fair to charge as though the item was new.)

**Lockers at LRK:** The vendor found the last glitch, and now the lockers are fully working. Franklin is waiting to turn on the "hold-it" locker in BiblioCommons. How much work is it to fill? There is a separate database of items in the lockers, so the most time is spent putting books into that. When the patron scans their card, that's when it actually checks out in Sierra. (Using RFID.) We can't keep items in the locker for a full week like other holds. If patron has an item already in the lockers, the next item for that patron will go in the same locker. To use the locker, people do need their library cards, which is a cultural issue at Larkspur. Total cost was approx. \$20k. The city poured the foundation and did the electrical work. Lockers can have a wrap, and also a return bin, though this one doesn't have that. (There is a bookdrop nearby.) The library is putting books and DVDs in there, but not laptops. Anybody can request and have stuff put there, no need to be a Larkspur patron.

**DRWG proposal.** The Digital Resources Working Group recommends adding \$82k more to Overdrive for the next year, to get closer to what we've actually spent this year. They are also recommending paying to subscribe to Newsbank, which we've had for free this year. O'Reilly E-books went up a bit, we're

monitoring it does get used a lot. Do the academic libraries have access to Newsbank? Jessica will check and let them know.

There's a general sense that we need to do better with maintaining lower holds ratios on best sellers, and the surveys that MCFL is doing show this as the most commonly reported concern with the public. (Specifically long wait times for e-books and e-audio.) MARINet has a collection development policy, but purchasing to reduce holds ratios is still driven by how much money we have. We've been staying around 10:1. Overdrive use is now stable at about 1/3 of total checkouts. Kanopy is going to stay separate from Overdrive, according to our sales rep. The decision, approve the DRWG level for now with the budget, and hold off on authorizing more money, until we look again at what the individual contributions are right now.

**Budget FY22-23, Resolution to adopt proposed budget.** Motion to approve Abbot Chambers, Second by Lana Adlawan, votes are yes: BET COM DUC LRK MCFL MVY SAN SRPL SAU No: none. FY22-23 budget is passed.

**Sub-committee to look at regional membership:** NorthNet was unable to attain a quorum for their last meeting, which is probably indicative of a consortium that stretches from the Bay Area to the Oregon border. They also have a very rural library orientation due to the membership being mostly rural. Would PLP be a better fit for Marin's public libraries? Is the contiguous rule still in effect? We do border SFPL and Richmond Public, who are PLP members. Right now the only thing we're in contract with NorthNet over is the LinkPlus shared contract, which we have 2 more years on. Could we be our own official regional consortium? The State Library wants larger groups, so it's likely the state would not support that. PLP would be a more natural partner, it's a mega consortium, mostly made of other consortia. PLP has 33 jurisdictions. Henry and Linda and Dan will investigate PLP.

**Sub-committee on cost sharing:** Henry, Lana and Anji met to look at CSF. A number of libraries are not happy with the current formula. Should we consider something different? This sub-committee could use a fourth person, from a small city library. We could also do a survey of the libraries. Abbot can join. It's too early to bring anything to the group yet, we need more research and preparation.

**Open source initiatives – prioritize:** In considering our possible future projects for MARINet, we need to prioritize looking at open source software with other projects, such as the RFID AMH sorter project for TEC. Currently, no Open Source ILS supports BiblioCommons, so we would want to investigate catalogs that would work with any ILS. The best open source catalog software is There is an open source alternative to BiblioCommons, it's the development of VuFind, now called Aspen. We need to look at features and functionality. Start with Demo. Last time we evaluated catalog options, we used a working group, so should we do that again or have a Board task force? MARINet staff asks that we make sure we're not start working on this with, more the ILS really, and the AMH project at the same time, for both money and workload issues.

**Other non-action items:** We'll do the Palaces Project demo next month. Also, is there a timeline for the sorter? Is anyone going back to live meetings? Live meetings? The City of Mill Valley is ending Zoom meetings in a couple weeks. At Marin County, all the commissions will be meeting in person again. Larkspur will be doing hybrid meetings first. Before any meetings at Los Gatos, we'll need to clear out the board room, it's being used to store PPE and RFID tags. For this Board, meeting on Zoom works.

There's a discussion of AMH and timelines, and how the project will proceed. This topic will come back again as it's very complex. But in general, we want to start the earliest parts of it soon, so that we aren't delaying it unnecessarily.

**Equity discussion:** Abbot shared 3 documents, about housing covenants as he's encountered them in Sausalito. How did Marin get to be how we are? One answer is the racial covenants in title deeds. (The example he shared is from 1953, but these restrictive covenants were first used in 1937.)

The 3<sup>rd</sup> reading is about how environmentalism has contributed to a lack of housing stock. Is keeping open space to the extent Marin has been a problem? Cities are looking at housing, this is going to get interesting as new housing plans are formulated. Next month's equity discussion would be Bel Tib, but Crystal may miss the meeting, so COM will go next month instead.

**Systems report:** Nothing to added, expect that we're replacing servers, monitoring software, and working on security this month.

**Topics for future agenda:**

- RFID
- Palace Project
- Reflect on Retreat and Patty Wong's comments

**Announcements:**

Belvedere Tiburon: Crystal may be out next month; a baby is on the way very soon.

College of Marin: Classes resume in person Feb 27. They're back to regular pre-pandemic hours. Staff is looking at plans for the new library next week. The Drama Department of COM is scheduling their first play for May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Dominican: The Library remodel will finally happen, groundbreaking is in May. There will be a new entrance way on both sides of library.

Larkspur: The library should be open full hours, they have 3 librarians now. There are new library aides, so they're starting to get back to pandemic staff levels at least. The budget is still frozen.

Marin County Free Library: MCFL has started a review of library sites with Nolan-Tam. It's mostly recommending minor interior changes. There is a community survey in advance of the funding measure, Library Admin will review the data then see how to move forward.

Mill Valley: ZIP Books are awesome, thanks to Henry for help with setup.

San Anselmo: The library has a community survey out now, asking about hours, and looking toward renewal of the sales tax measure this November. A new circ desk supervisor should in place by end of March. They are looking at adding hours, and it feels "normal" in the library now.

San Rafael Public Library: The library is in the first round of hiring for a new supervisor. They are back to normal hours. Other positions are open, and the library is now open Sunday 10 to 5. All funding has been restored.

Sausalito: This library is also hiring a circ supervisor, the 2<sup>nd</sup> round interviews are tomorrow. Hours have been expanded to add evenings, so it's now 10 to 7 Monday to Thursday, noon to 5 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Indoor events are coming up soon. Outdoor children's story times start next Sat.

The meeting is adjourned at 2:04 p.m.