

MARINet Board Meeting – Minutes
Online Meeting – July 7, 2022 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Approved on Aug. 4, 2022

Present: Crystal Duran, Anji Brenner, Sarah Frye, Gary Gorka, Lana Adlawan, Linda Kenton, Abbot Chambers, Henry Bankhead, Franklin Escobedo, Dan McMahon

Absent: none

Guests: Bill Hale

Meeting convened at 12:25 p.m.

Public Comment: Bill Hale has two comments. First, he says that libraries should be at the forefront of efforts to combat disinformation. ALA should take the lead. Second, a legal case access to materials just came down, are libraries locally ready for that? Third, to comply with the Brown Act, if items are action items or not action items needs to be more clear. We need the Brown Act training.

Minutes of June 2 and June 9 meetings are approved unanimously.

Report of the Cost Sharing Working Group: Survey responses came in right up to today. The average satisfaction with the current formula is 6 out of 10. The group looked at alternative bases for funding. Ideas included tiered services, or maybe larger libraries do pay more. How to introduce equity? And should the library's budget be considered as a factor? Any new approach could be brought in as a tiered thing to lessen the impact.

Comments, Gary says the academic libraries have a special deal, they don't benefit from many of the things MARINet does, Henry confirms a separate category for the academics. Abbot says it's tough to reconcile the well-off and not well-off libraries. What is MARINet? What are we paying for? Should we compensate libraries with low-income communities? How are we serving the whole of Marin County? Sarah says that COM is considering moving to Alma, as it's free for all Community Colleges in the State.

There are two tracks to this, adjusting the formula, and reducing the budget. Who can pay more, who needs to pay less? Relying on what can work for people? County talking to schools, they pay MCFL for some services now. Dan's comment: 18 % of the budget is Overdrive, or \$350k this year. \$100k is linkplus, \$100k is CENIC. Dan will provide updates on what these large contracts look like.

Regionals Working Group: no report, next month.

LBGTQIA Affinity Group: Motion made to authorize staff group with this name to meet, seconded, vote to approve is unanimous.

Product Presentation: Digital Navigator, presented by Christian Theyer. This system assesses the needs of patrons and sets them up with free connectivity resources that the government is providing. It's a part of the Connected California project. They connect patrons to resources and devices for free or low-cost internet, and promote basic digital literacy. It's less of a tech support role and more social services. Digital Navigator supports Spanish and English directly, and may add translation services beyond that. Libraries are not expected to survey the clients, collect any data, or participate financially.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1MYSj9CSZk_LH4-HTgbUnRlrSCffz1RzI/edit?usp=sharing&oid=117575323903088200583&rtfpof=true&sd=true

Digital Navigator is not keeping any identifying data on patrons, except names and ZIP Codes, and can purge those if needed. Among many overlapping services, Navigators try to find the best services they can for each patron. Outreach kits are coming out in a month. Send Christian who the point person in each system is. No need for a vote, just volunteer to take part. In Marin our ZIP Codes don't align with library jurisdictions exactly, is that an issue?

Aspen demo: Discussion around the table of benefits and costs. Reduced costs are estimated at \$15k to \$20k per year, the biggest impact would be retraining patrons. In discussion, several libraries indicate they are not interested in changing the catalog right now, no motion is made. Henry asks, then what do the next steps look like? Who do we need to talk to for moving this decision along? Maybe DRWG? Consensus is that the board could probably make the decision by themselves, if they desired. Is the uniquely branded portal that Aspen offers enough to sway people? Anji offers that if we do go to replace the public catalog we need to broaden the exposure of the proposed product so staff would be on board with this process, one which affects them this much.

Discussion continues, if there are cost savings, what's the balance with the pain of suffering of staff changing things? MCFL has an election in November, and doesn't want to change interfaces people use to access collections right, especially as it would render their new website obsolete. Sarah says from their perspective, it's nice to see "MARINet" on the catalog, they don't need a branded version.

Crystal asks, what are MARINet's goals? Is there a list anywhere? Anji says we could have a one-year plan to prioritize things. This will go back to the executive committee and then back to this meeting next month.

Collection HQ: We have a quote for CHQ a couple months ago, and MCFL and SRPL would get refunds for their recent subscriptions as they fold in. Motion made to pick up CHQ for everyone. Yes vote is unanimous. Related issue, should we drop Decision Center? It would free up the same amount of money, though we have just now trained MCFL admin to use it for specific projects. Decision about whether or not to drop Decision Center is deferred.

Quipu: We need to replace Library Market for verified online cards, and have a quote from Quipu. A placeholder for this is in the passed FY23 budget for \$17k, this will cost us around \$18.5k to implement, but is only \$3.5k a year after. (Less than Library Market, at \$1 a card we were up to \$6k/year.) A motion made to change vendors to Quipu: motion seconded, vote yes is unanimous.

E-commerce and fines: Push discussion back to next month. **Collaboration Standing Item** also postponed.

Equity discussion: Access issues? Buildings, construction, but also involves neuro diversity and more eclectic issues that block access for people. Good example from San, someone asking for an elevator, when they have one. They increased the signage. And added 10 minute express parking in front of library. Points back to who are we not serving? The schools have higher expectations around physical access issues, but for example COM has a whole office that handles this for the campus.

Systems Report: Fines paid are being distributed now, and total \$18,000 for the whole year. Checks to each library are going out next week. MCFL is paid with ETF so that's done.

Future topics: break on the agenda,, 10 min for future.

Announcements:

Belvedere Tiburon opens fully (the whole building) pm Sept. 17.

College of Marin is in Summer session now. They are planning on having banned book events this year.

Dominican's Library is moving to the other side of building during remodeling. Gary can't wait till we get back to visiting other people's libraries once again.

San Rafael has lots of new stuff available, due to the Pittsburg Family Foundation.

Marin County is asking the Board of Supervisors this month for direction on the parcel tax renewal, and the library is hoping to be on the November ballot with it.

Sausalito Library just did a big e-book purchase with other libraries. Abbot will be taking a 3 week vacation soon, for the first time in 3 years.

Mill Valley Library will help the County in any way possible with the funding measure. Patrons don't know who is what library sometimes.

San Anselmo Library is also doing a parcel tax renewal measure in November. They've also launched the OWLS for homebound patrons.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.