MARINet Board Meeting – Minutes
Online Meeting Oct. 6, 2022, 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Minutes approved on Nov. 3, 2022

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

Absent: College of Marin

Guests: Jessica Zairo, Bill Kessler, Jordan Fields, from Bywater Solutions. Pat Beaupre Becker, from the Marin County League of Women Voters. Megan Stone, from the Marin Registrar of Voters. Erica Reynolds and Marty Tarle, from BiblioCommons.

Meeting called to order at 12:00 p.m.
Minutes for Aug. and Sept. with corrections, approved. (Sept. correction, Pat from LWV was a guest in that meeting, not an agenda item.)

Topics
League of Women Voters: Megan Stone: How can the libraries and the Elections Department collaborate? Megan is inviting libraries to become members of the Voter Education and Outreach Committee. It's not a big commitment, they typically meet once a year just before the election. Pat wants to schedule voter demonstrations at some of the libraries, and is holding dates open. Her contact info is provided in the chat. (To be added to the VEOAC list, please contact me at mstone@marincounty.org. Thank you!) They're thinking of calling the sessions "Celebrating Democracy."

Aspen and BiblioCommons:
Aspen, Bywater: The goal of Aspen is maximizing use of library materials by patrons. Patrons are used to Amazon, so they give them that kind of results, in FRBR'ized form. They provide a list of California Libraries with Aspen. It's used by a large consortium, SWAN in Maine. Libraries can make their own choices on branding, at no extra cost. The catalog is making sure that other resources are presented to patrons, ex Enki, Ebsco, etc. The entire state of Wyoming going live on Aspen next month. Reading history is the biggest selling point, it's searchable. Online payment options include PayPal, Comprise etc. You can use payment API as well if it exists. They're working on updates to improve the appearance. What's a transition look like, how long does it take? Est. 8 weeks to 6 months, typically four to five months.

BiblioCommons: BiblioCommons uses patron focused design and ongoing integration of features. They're currently used by over 400 public libraries, that is their sole focus. Accessibility is part of the culture, per WCAG 2.1 standards. SFPL drove the initial accessibility work. The company employs mostly librarians, with a team of over 50 just focused on the patron experience. Erica demonstrated a comparison of Aspen and BiblioCore designs on one title. Staff lists are prominently featured, as a way to build relationship between the public and library staff using catalog. They showed comments from our own patrons on BC, they have received over 6,000 comments, mostly positive. There was a discussion of recent outages, which were caused by upgrading infrastructure. They are working on exporting borrowing history, which should be available in 2023. The App is going to get push notifications, improvements to the checkout experience and adding multiple accounts to the app. (Do

we want to be a preview library for that?) Lana asks, can we get data on our users and how they use it? Dan and Jessica say yes, we have analytics and logs, but haven't done a look in years as nobody has asked about this. What questions would we be looking to answer? Their app is branded as MARINet, unlike the Aspen Lida app which is branded for Bywater.

Discussion afterwards. MCFL is interested in self-checkout, and in the multiple account feature being designed. It's currently $3k to turn on checkout in app. Henry holds that our primary goal is cost cutting. Linda points out our customer service experience is probably more important. BC provides good support to our patrons. Are there better places in the budget to reduce costs?

Talk about meeting in person: Even quarterly in-person meetings would be good, and visiting other libraries would also be good. Important to meet face to face at times. The scheduling of an in-person meeting would have to be different from the online meetings, mid-day does not work for the travel involved. Discussion follows. SRPL wants Zoom only. MVY SAU say only meet once or twice a year. The Board can do a social occasion if business is not discussed. No consensus yet.

Report from Cost Sharing Working Group: No update.

JPA Revision, a new Task Force: Hasn't been formed yet. Dan Schwartz willing to come speak to us. Any suggestions?

Bibliotheca Support Costs: Bibliotheca wants us to sign a support contract for the pads we've bought. They initially asked for $200 per pad per year. (The pads cost $500 to $600.) They cut it to $98. Lori is of the opinion that we don't need to pay these folks. It would be $9,600 the first year then next year $14,602. The support issue is tricky. Can individual libraries do their own contracts? Paying support doesn't make sense after a year or two at this cost. We could use any other pads from any vendor, it just takes some setup on our part. MARINet won't replace pads going forward, that is up to libraries. Individual libraries will follow up with Bibliotheca if they want a support contract on their pads. They should hold the company to the $98/pad level.

MARINet retention policy: We should follow the County's retention policy. What do the other JPAs do?

Overdrive Ordering of Best Sellers: If a physical title has 25 holds it's ordered as an e-book for MARINet. Other systems are adding book, e-book and e-audiobook at same time as the first orders for physical books. Our collection is well developed compared to other larger collections at nearby libraries. But we aren't really organized around purchasing here, not integrating orders for online and physical formats. Jessica suggests that we check on the authors for standing orders. We could buy those e-books earlier. We also have to keep librarians involved so they feel connected to the collection.

Collaboration and partnership: The domain for the One Book One Marin website was renewed for two years. BET is getting a memory lab grant from the state library, as is SRPL They're also getting ZIP book funding. MCFL did a partnership with MVY and SAU on StoryWalk.

Systems Report: Sierra 5.5 is on the horizon, probably in the next 6 to 8 weeks. We're doing school card updates and renewals, starting a new set for MCFL's school districts this year. Dan is planning Jan. 20 as his last day, and will create the next draft budget, send any input if you have it. On CHQ what's up with the diversity tool? They will now bill MARINet, so it's time to set up trainings. They're already

getting the data for all the libraries in the weekly exports. Overdrive reciprocal borrowing is running about 5% of OD checkouts right now already.

Future topics:
   a. The CHQ Diversity tool.
   b. Scheduling a special meeting on Sys Admin replacement.

Virtual meeting approval: The vote is unanimous to continue meeting virtually for another month. We could use a consent agenda if there is more than a single item needing approval.

Annoucements:
MCFL: We're doing a class and comp study on the MARINet Systems Administrator position.
SAU: Augie Webb is retiring; Nov. 15 is her last day of work. Staff are going to a 4 day, 36 hour workweek for all employees.
DUC: Demolition in the library building begins Monday morning. There will be heavy construction for a year and a half at least. Minor adjustments for delivery, will advise MARINet.
SRPL: The library has hired a fulltime Library Assistant and two Library Aides.
LRK: We lost a librarian to Bel Tib Library. There is almost $5M in the building fund.
Linda: Abbot won the Bank of Marin's Spirit of Marin award this year.

Meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.