

MARINet Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 2, 2025



Meeting Held at: 375 Throckmorton Ave, Mill Valley, CA 94941

Present:

Board Chair: Anji Brenner (Mill Valley)

Board: Crystal Duran (Belvedere Tiburon), Sarah Frye (College of Marin), Amy Gilbert (Dominican), Lana Adlawan (MCFL), Linda Kenton (San Anselmo), and Catherine Quffa (San Rafael)

MARINet Staff: Jessica Trenary

Brenner called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

- I. Determination of a Quorum – Yes
- II. Public Comment Period – None
- III. Business Topics
 - A. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting (*Action*) - **Adlawan moved to approve the August 7, 2025, meeting minutes, Kenton seconded. Unanimously approved by a voice vote.**
 - B. MARINet Meeting Schedule (*Action*) - **Duran moved to approve the MARINet Board FY 25-26 Meeting Schedule tentatively cancelling the January and April 2026 meetings, Gilbert seconded. Unanimously approved by a voice vote.**
 - C. Library Facilities Updates – COM, MCFL, SAN, SRPL (*Discussion*) – Several libraries will close for renovations in the coming months. Dates and services may shift, but current plans include:
 - San Rafael: Downtown reopened, opening celebration had over 1,000 people. Pickleweed will be closed late September through mid-October, with alternate services at Al Boro Community Center. Lockers are on order. Full reopening expected spring or summer 2026. MCFL Learning Bus will stop at Pickleweed.
 - San Anselmo: Temporary Mini Library opening mid-October in the Town Plaza, main library reopening late January 2026.
 - College of Marin Kentfield: Closing October 20 for relocation, reopening start of spring semester, January 2026. Indian Valley collection also unavailable during closure.
 - MCFL: 10 Branch Refresh Project underway, with staggered branch closures through June 2026. Updated timelines available on MCFL’s Branch Refresh Page. Inverness completed.
 - D. Board Resolution – CA State Library Grant (*Action*) - The Board reviewed the MOU for the California State Library Grant. The contract was included in the packet and reviewed by Marin County Counsel. Counsel advised that MARINet request the arbitration venue

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be changed to Marin County and that insurance coverage be secured. Trenary will sign the MOU pending these adjustments. **Duran moved to authorize Trenary to sign the MOU for the California State Library Grant, contingent upon revision of the arbitration venue to Marin County and confirmation of required insurance coverage, Kenton seconded. Unanimously approved by a voice vote.**

- E. Working Groups (*Discussion*) – Adlawan asked whether the working groups are meeting the Board’s needs, noting that in prior years the Chair presented annual goals to the Board. Trenary emphasized that if the Board expects Chairs to present goals, Board Members must support their Chairs in this role. Trenary reported that all recommendations from the December 2023 *Streamlining MARINet Meetings* report have been implemented, including chair and note-taker rotations, scheduled meetings with agenda reminders, the merger of Children’s and Teen Services into the Youth Services affinity group, and streamlined Board agenda processes. She further noted that the working groups are effectively meeting MARINet’s needs and that staff may want to make greater use of their professional connections in the groups. The Board requested this item be added as an Action for the November meeting.

MARINet Working Groups:

- Bibliographic Standards Working Group – Chair San Anselmo
 - Circulation Working Group – Chair Larkspur
 - Digital Resources Working Group – Chair Sausalito
 - Youth Services Working Group – Chair Mill Valley
- F. AMH at MCFL Tech Services (*Discussion*) - The Board reviewed the understandings outlined between MARINet and MCFL regarding the purchase, installation, and maintenance of an Automated Materials Handling (AMH) system at MCFL Technical Services. Of the \$500,000 originally allocated in 2021 for RFID conversion, \$231,529 remains and will be applied to this project. Under the agreement, MCFL will oversee procurement, daily operations, and maintenance, while MARINet will provide technical integration and purchase bins for the city and academic libraries. A Board Resolution will be brought forward once MCFL has purchased the AMH to authorize transfer of the funds.
- G. Board Task Force Updates
- eBook (*Action*) - The Board reviewed the eBook Task Force proposal to reduce OverDrive holds and checkout limits from 25 to 15 starting November 1, 2025, with the goal of lowering wait times and improving access. Communication to patrons will take place in October, settings will be updated in November, and results will be evaluated in March 2026. **Kenton moved to lower OverDrive holds and checkouts to 15, Duran seconded. Unanimously approved by a voice vote.**

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- Equity (*Discussion*) - The Equity Task Force completed its planned meetings with all MARINet working groups to introduce and gather feedback on the Commitment to Equity statement. Thanks to Lana for her participation and support. The Task Force will continue to gather input.
 - Library Support Groups (*Discussion*) - Paul Signorelli will facilitate a half-day interactive session on October 17, 2025 at the Belvedere Tiburon Library focused on collaboration, storytelling, and advocacy for Marin library support groups. The program will engage Library Friends and Foundation members in developing strategies for volunteer engagement, advocacy, and community support.
- H. CENIC Update from Stanley Han, Associate Vice President, Engagement, CENIC (*Discussion*) – Han provided an overview of CENIC and its work with libraries, including updates on projects relevant to public libraries. He highlighted CENIC AIR, CENIC’s artificial intelligence resource, and proposed a discussion with Tom DeFanti. Han will be meeting with California State Library. He also introduced C2TAG (CENIC Community Technology Affinity Group), which includes a mailing list, Slack channel, and regular meetings and webinars. Current discussions focus on security, the member portal, and future opportunities.
- IV. Standing Agenda Items
- A. Library Advocacy (*Discussion*) – Duran provided an update on California legislative priorities, including requests for one-time funding from the State Library for AI training and \$15 million from Proposition 4 to support public libraries as emergency centers for disaster response. She noted that eBook pricing disparities between consumer and library markets might be a legislative issue this year. Trenary reported that, although the State Library had announced the end of its New York Times subscription effective June 30, 2025, it has reversed course and will provide statewide access to the “Basic News” package from October 2025 through August 2026. MARINet will maintain its own “All Access” subscription, which includes cooking and other features, through June 30, 2026. The State Library will also continue the California Libraries Learn (CALL) grant program in FY 2025–26, with activities beginning September 29, 2025, and ongoing opportunities available through the CALL calendar and CALL Academy.
- B. Library Announcements (*Discussion*) –
- Quffa (San Rafael) – Hired three new librarians, with interviews underway for additional recruitment. A new marketing coordinator has joined Library and Recreation, and new promotional materials are in development.
 - Kenton (San Anselmo) – Preparing for the library’s relocation.
 - Gilbert (Dominican) – Hosting a banned books read-a-thon, weekly “Little Penguin” story time on Fridays, and undertaking a library refresh.
 - Frye (College of Marin) – Supporting current staffing changes and library move.

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- Duran (Belvedere-Tiburon) – Partnering with Reed Union School District on student library cards, collaborating with BAYREN on building sustainability initiatives, and planning physical collection shifts in December.
 - Adlawan (MCFL) – Continuing the 10 branch Refresh Project; Supervisor Colbert introduced a resolution in support of Banned Books Week.
 - Brenner (Mill Valley) – Conducting a public survey and hosting an after-hours event on artificial intelligence.
- C. Systems Administrator Report (*Discussion*) – Trenary reported on completed 2025 projects including Auto Situs, the ticketing system, and student cards, with contingency planning and new notices still in progress. CENIC optimization project will be postponed in favor of the CENIC Firewall project. Recent highlights include a Sierra upgrade, improved school card workflows, SSL certificate savings, support for multiple library closures, and continued work on school catalog records, the annual audit, and upcoming NorCal IUG and BiblioCommons conferences.

Brenner adjourned the meeting at 11:44 am

Minutes respectfully submitted by Trenary