

MARINet Board Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2013

Sausalito City Hall, Friend's Book sale room, top floor

9:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Present:

Abbot Chambers, Sausalito Public Library
Anji Brenner, Mill Valley Public Library
John Erdmann, College of Marin
Debbie Mazzolini, Belvedere-Tiburon Public Library
Frances Gordon, Larkspur Public Library
Gary Gorka, Dominican College
Sara Jones, Marin County Free Library
Sarah Houghton, San Rafael Public Library
Deb Moehrke, System Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 9:05. Chambers introduced John Erdmann from MARINet's newest associate member, The College of Marin. Erdmann, who is Department Chair for the Library, reported that they have just hired 2 new librarians, bringing the total to 3. They will also be hiring a cataloger.

Public Comment Period – no public present.
Introduction of any guests – no guests.

Minutes were approved (SH/AB) with minor corrections.

Old Business

College of Marin update

Moehrke reported the contract was signed and the invoice is being sent. The College of Marin is in a bit of a holding pattern until a director and possibly a cataloger are hired, but they can move forward with other behind-the-scenes activities.

Content Pro discussion and decision

Moehrke distributed document with answers to questions board members had submitted. Motion to commit to a 3 year \$14,500/year contract and form a subcommittee/task force to help with implementation decisions passed (DM/SJ). Moehrke will ask Innovative if MARINet can get a discount by paying 3 years in advance.

Progress on SWOT initiatives

Chambers (mobile) reported on the experience of making an iPad2 available in the kid's room. It was found to be too much of a distraction and the Library received complaints from very vocal parents. Staff have since moved the iPad2 to the homework area, and it is still getting used, but not as much.

Gordon (collaboration) reported that a meeting that will probably take place in September for sharing ideas on various topics. The initial topic will be on collection development, including e-books and in-demand collections. The first meeting will also be an opportunity to create a list of additional topics of interest and prioritize them. Gordon is also investigating how to best share resources (people) who are expert in specific tasks, or who have unique skills.

Brenner (Link+) reported compiling information regarding a shared password from city libraries and passing it along to Sara Jones. She has not yet drafted a letter to Link+ regarding more user-friendly language about the service on the Link+ website.

Gorka (academic) reported that he is interested in leveraging the attractive pricing for digital collections available to academic institutions to MARINet. He would also like to investigate better solutions to costly textbooks. Gorka would like to network with Erdmann on some of these issues/ideas.

Jones (marketing) is interested in creating greater awareness of the library's role in education. County supervisors adopted a resolution related to making education better. She thought this was something that MARINet might want to tackle as a consortium.

Moehrke asked about how to maintain tip of the month. Houghton provided clarification of what she thought was the original intent – that the tip of the month did not need to be promoted by the MARINet office.

Houghton: (eBooks) San Rafael is looking into a potential e-book related lawsuit.

Mazzolini: (catalog) has been investigating how to move forward on shared cataloging services when the needs of various member libraries are not uniform. MCFL charges \$8.75/ item for cataloguing and is open to other libraries sub-contracting for this service. Discussion about where the areas of agreement are in maintaining the MARINet database integrity/database clean-up. The next step is to draft concepts of what items/responsibilities should be maintained by the MARINet office.

Staff placed holds for Link+ patrons

Jones said she needed more time to investigate the situation before making a change to the policy that would allow city libraries to share a password for placing holds for county patrons. Recruiting a lot of staff is the highest priority, along with addressing inconsistent customer service within county branches.

New Business

Inconsistency of DVD fines in MARINet

Discussion of whether or not it is a problem that libraries charge different rates. Everyone felt it was good to have the discussion but that it was not the right timing to make major changes. There are a lot of inconsistencies and there is no consensus to move towards uniform fines at the present time. There was interest in discussing fines for kids at some future time.

Adding 'local only' items to the catalog

The current policy: MARINet libraries can only put things in the catalog they are able to share, or that patrons can use if they walk in the library. 3M Cloud has the functionality to list individual titles in the catalog, but our current policy prevents listing them in the catalog. Discussion of difficulties it presents to poorer libraries for their patrons not to be able to use items vs. patrons of other libraries not being able to find materials. Discussion followed regarding a greater effort to have joint collections. Jones will try to negotiate a good all in cost and then we can discuss options (sinking fund or individual purchases).

Check out of browsing copy filling hold in queue

Chambers wanted everyone to know that when someone checks out a book from a 7-day or similar in-demand collection, it wipes out their hold. Moehrke looked into various work-arounds, none of which seemed like good options.

Banned patron information

Increase in banned patrons at SRPL; question of legality of sharing this information and balancing privacy vs. risk to the public. Will have on next agenda and will consult with individual counsel.

Other non-action items

Standing Items for the agenda

System Administrator's report

Moehrke referred to her report, already sent out, and asked if there were any questions. She has a spreadsheet of what maintenance costs are being paid and will contact individual libraries for updated information, as some of the services/products might no longer be in use.

Correspondence - no correspondence

Topics for future agenda

3M, desk tracker product (County just purchased to track reference questions), Gorka mentioned using Lib Answers (Board was interested in both products), banned patrons information in catalog question.

Announcements

Chambers: (Sausalito) is launching a new website next week. They are staying with same platform, but developing own presence. They have made an offer to a candidate for the LAII position but it is not yet official. Mentioned CENIC survey was pretty complicated and the potential complexity for libraries already part of an existing network. Gordon (Larkspur) talked about completing the grid for extra hires; Brenner (Mill Valley) reported on their first lego program with about 48 kids and 18 adults. Gorka (Dominican) just hired a night-time Circulation Supervisor, now looking for a half-time back room, jack-of-all trades person.

Jones (MCFL) is working on response to Grand Jury Report and filling a lot of positions. Marin City closes 8/19-8/27, mostly carpet and making things look nicer; have done a lot of work at Civic Center, and will soon work on Fairfax. Jones has requested that work stop at Corte Madera on back office in order to rethink how to improve services within current footprint. Houghton (San Rafael): Adult services librarian offer to go out next week; Friends of Library having a giant book sale on 8/24 with great arts books. Mazzolini (Belvedere-Tiburon) reported that The Ark did a full length article on the teen librarian and teen literature. September is Blackie's Pasture Hayday event, which funds all children's program throughout the year; also have a juried art show; in November - Elaine Petrocelli from Book Passage speaks at luncheon. John Erdmann (College of Marin): deep pool to hire 2 librarians; reassessing all of policies at libraries; trying to turn corner and hire best people possible; school starts next week;

Minutes taken by Anji Brenner