



## **Sailor Advisory Committee**

**February 24, 2026**

**10:00 AM**

### **MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Michael C. Brown, Michael Johnson, Paula Mitchell, Ryan Rickels, Rudy Rodela (Chair), Stephanie Sopka, Rachael Stein, Liz Sundermann-Zinger, Bill Taylor, Amanda Watson, and Shane Williams.

**Call to order:** The meeting started at 10:05 am.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** There were no changes to the announced agenda.

**Approval of Minutes:** There were no corrections or additions to the draft minutes from the November 18, 2025, meeting. The minutes were adopted as drafted without objections.

**SLRC Oversight Commission Updates:** No separate report – highlights will be discussed by SLRC staff in this meeting who are also on the SLRC Commission.

**MSLA Report** was deferred to the next meeting.

**State Broadband Commission Report** was deferred as we do not have a commission liaison.

**State Library Resource Center Updates:** Liz provided updates on the State Library Resource Center, including the ongoing Public Services Conference, upcoming LATI day in partnership with LBPD, a planned special collections symposium, and the transition from the Menken room to the Duane Wickham room, with new public access and digitization efforts; Liz also announced the hiring of a Chief People Officer and a new Director of Communications and Outreach, with Shane providing an update on the Chief Digital Transformation position.

- **Public Services Conference:** Liz reported that the virtual day of the Public Services Conference was underway, with the in-person day scheduled for the following day. The conference, previously focused on circulation staff, has been rebranded to include all frontline public service staff due to changes in library staffing structures.
- **Upcoming LATI Day and Symposium:** Liz announced an upcoming LATI day in partnership with LBPD, designed as a mini-conference to consolidate in-person activities for LATI participants. Additionally, a special collections symposium is planned, covering topics such as physical and digital collections, copyright law, and deaccessioning, with limited attendance and a process to allocate spots among interested systems.

- **Duane Wickham Room Transition:** The Menken room has been redesignated as the Duane Wickham room, which is now open to the public two days a week. The collection remains the same, and Duane Wickham is actively contributing interviews, which are being digitized. Some content will be accessible only on-site due to copyright restrictions.
- **Chief Digital Transformation Position:** Rudy inquired about the status of the Chief Digital Transformation position, which remains unfilled. Shane explained that internal IT restructuring is ongoing, with decisions expected in the coming months after discussions with the COO.
- **New Hires in HR and Communications:** Liz shared that a Chief People Officer, formerly from the Arizona State Lottery, and a new Director of Communications and Outreach, Nestor Diaz, have joined the team, bringing experience from previous statewide and county roles.

**Legislative and Broadband Bill Discussion:** Amanda raised a question about the implications of Maryland's HB382/SB571 (Broadband Opportunity and Fairness Act) for Sailor, prompting Michael C. Brown and Liz to request more information for review; Michael C. Brown later reported that the bill would not impact Sailor based on its definition of broadband service.

**Sailor Network Infrastructure and Upgrades:** Michael C. Brown provided updates on Sailor's network infrastructure, including ongoing circuit upgrades at the municipal building, upcoming renewal and bandwidth increase for the Zeo circuit, and exploratory efforts to establish a second circuit off the Eastern Shore, with timelines still uncertain.

- **Circuit Upgrades:** The circuit at the municipal building is being upgraded to match the Cathedral St. circuit, though progress has been slow due to Comcast-related issues.
- **Zeo Circuit Renewal:** The Zeo circuit contract will be renewed on July 1, with an upgrade to higher bandwidth at a reduced cost compared to the current rate.
- **Eastern Shore Second Circuit:** Initial discussions are underway to establish a second circuit off the Eastern Shore, potentially providing up to 100 Gbps capacity, though backhaul from Ashburn is needed and the timeline for implementation is uncertain.

**AI Council Formation and Digital Literacy Initiatives:** Shane reported on Sailor's customer service status and announced internal discussions to form an AI Council, including a partnership with Johns Hopkins for AI research in libraries, with plans to increase digital literacy and potential for external collaboration as expressed by Rudy and Ryan.

- **AI Council and Partnerships:** Shane described internal talks to create an AI Council in response to growing partnerships, notably with Johns Hopkins, which will provide a PhD student to research the future of libraries and AI integration.
- **Digital Literacy Efforts:** Plans are in place to enhance digital literacy offerings for patrons, integrating AI-related content and training to help the public stay informed and prepared for technological changes.

- **External Collaboration Interest:** Rudy and Ryan expressed interest in participating in AI-related initiatives, leading Shane to consider expanding the council's scope to include external stakeholders and to commit to further communication about involvement opportunities.

**Marina Resource Sharing Platform Transition and Training:** Paula provided a comprehensive update on the Marina resource sharing platform transition, highlighting successful information gathering for Autographics, upcoming NSIP testing, user group meetings, training strategy development for decentralized and centralized workflows, and plans for conference presentations and vendor engagement.

- **Autographics Implementation Progress:** Paula reported that Maryland libraries have been responsive in providing information requested by Autographics, facilitating the platform's configuration to meet diverse system needs.
- **NSIP Testing and User Group Meetings:** Monthly Marina user group meetings continue, with the next steps involving NSIP testing. A survey will be distributed to schedule testing, and explanations will be provided to ensure all systems understand the process and its impact on their ILS.
- **Training Strategy Development:** Training for the new platform will include both virtual and in-person options, tailored to the eight unique workflows identified across Maryland library systems. Debbie Hensler from Autographics will assist in designing the training, drawing on experience from other state rollouts.
- **Conference Engagement and Vendor Presence:** Autographics will participate in the MLA DLA conference, providing opportunities for direct engagement with Maryland libraries. Presentations at the Public Services Conference will compare current and future ILS platforms and promote awareness of the transition.
- **Workflow Flexibility and Vendor Education:** Paula and the team emphasized the importance of maintaining unique system workflows and have worked to educate the vendor on Maryland's specific needs, ensuring flexibility in the platform's implementation.

**Digital Maryland Collections and Accessibility Compliance:** Michael Johnson (SLRC) updated the committee on Digital Maryland's new collections, ongoing platform evaluation, potential integration of Western Maryland's Wilbur collection, and preparations for ADA digital accessibility compliance, with group discussion on strategies for managing PDFs and vendor accessibility statements.

- **New Collections and Usage Trends:** Six new collections have been published in the first half of the fiscal year, with usage slightly up and item additions down compared to a previous high-volume quarter.

- **Platform Evaluation and Content DM Upgrade:** A new version of Content DM is expected in late summer or fall, and the team will assess its improvements before considering alternative platforms.
- **Wilbur Collection Integration:** Discussions are ongoing with the Western Regional Library to potentially migrate the Wilbur collection into Digital Maryland, consolidating historical materials and expanding the resource.
- **ADA Accessibility Compliance Efforts:** Preparations are underway to meet the April deadline for digital accessibility, including drafting accessibility statements, reviewing vendor VPAAAs, and developing workflows for remediating non-compliant content, particularly PDFs.
- **Group Discussion on Accessibility Strategies:** Participants shared approaches for managing accessibility, such as labeling PDFs as archives, requesting vendor compliance plans, and exploring AI tools for remediation, with consensus on the need for ongoing effort and transparency.

**MILO Acronym Change Discussion:** Paula raised the proposal to change the 'O' in MILO from 'Organization' to 'Operations' to better reflect the department's current function, receiving consensus from the group that the change would not cause issues. Group members indicated no objections, with some noting they already interpreted the 'O' as 'Office.'

#### **Future Meeting Dates**

| <b>Sailor Advisory Committee</b> | <b>SLRC Commission</b> |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| August 26, 2025                  | September 30, 2025     |
| November 20, 2025                | December xx, 2025      |
| February 24, 2026                | March 24, 2026         |
| May 19, 2026                     | June xx, 2026          |

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 10:44 am.