



Sailor Advisory Committee

May 19, 2026

10:00 AM

MINUTES

Attendees: Michael C. Brown, Michael Johnson, Paula Maciel, Jason Marshall, Susan Payne, Rudy Rodela (Chair), Liz Sundermann, Amanda Watson, 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 February 24, 2025, meeting. The minutes were adopted as drafted without objections.

Anne Arundel Admin Offices Relocation: Rudy reported that the Anne Arundel County Public Library is preparing to lease office space near BWI for its library administration, with lease signing expected in mid-June, construction targeted for October, and relocation likely in late October or early November through year-end; Michael C. Brown requested the address to begin engineering work.

Marina System Transition: Michael Johnson and Paula explained that the Marina resource-sharing platform transition was postponed to August 31, ahead of the September 1 target, to complete critical Autographics development, communications, training, and legacy Relay cleanup.

- **Go-Live Deferral:** During March and April testing, the team identified critical workflow requirements needed to replace the existing Relay system while preserving county-specific processes. Autographics accepted additional implementation work, and the go-live was moved to August 31 to allow time for development, communications, training, and retirement of old Relay orders.
- **Required Enhancements:** Paula said the new product initially lacked functions Maryland considered fundamental, including undo capability and support for the statewide brokerage model. Maryland brokers OCLC transactions for 18 counties and also supports academic and special libraries, so the system must preserve those workflows without shifting unnecessary work to local staff. An update addressing these issues was expected in June.
- **Training And Communications:** Paula said training will be organized around system workflows and will account for centralized and decentralized operations. The planned sequence includes approximately two hours of virtual overview training in mid-July, follow-up practice and peer-to-

peer testing in mid-August, and universal staff training about two weeks before go-live; sessions will be recorded. Marina will also provide system-specific marketing materials and coordinate link changes with local IT teams.

- **Transition Operations:** The old and new systems will require a controlled transition rather than a simple plug-in replacement. Final Relay transactions are expected before the August 31 cutover, with approximately four to five weeks reserved for cleanup and transition support. Paula planned to confirm the updated calendar by the end of the month and coordinate dates with participating systems.

Resource Delivery Operations: Paula reported that Marina's physical delivery service is operating again after a temporary interruption to the Baltimore City BCCN run, while the team prepares to rebid the hub-cities courier contract for the next fiscal year.

- **Courier Contract:** The current three-year hub-cities contract enters its final contractual year on July 1. Paula will begin seeking a new provider or bid for the next cycle, with the goal of maintaining the existing network and routes while evaluating affordability and viability.
- **Service Interruption:** A staffing change and loss of institutional knowledge within an internal Baltimore City delivery partner caused a temporary interruption to the BCCN run, which serves state partners such as academic libraries and MSLA. Paula said service was restored the following week and the new staff are reviewing the operating procedures.
- **Issue Escalation:** Paula asked systems to report delivery concerns rather than relying on informal courier-to-courier arrangements. The shared Milo email address remains the primary contact for both Marina project and resource-delivery issues, with multiple people monitoring it.

Digital Maryland Development: Michael Johnson reported progress on Digital Maryland's accessibility compliance work, new collections, DPLA coordination, and migration of Western Maryland Digital Library content.

- **Accessibility Compliance:** Digital Maryland developed a compliance plan while accessibility requirements were deferred for a year. ContentDM now displays an archival-content notice and contact pathway on applicable collection items, and Digital Maryland has prepared an accessibility statement for future requirements.
- **New Collections:** Two new collections were added: materials from the Maryland Zoo and the National Historical Society of Maryland. The team is also continuing work on African American funeral programs, photography collections, and other planned projects.
- **DPLA Partnership:** Digital Maryland continues to serve as a DPLA service hub. Michael said DPLA's organizational transition from a proposed Philadelphia arrangement to Cleveland created uncertainty, but recent indications suggested greater stability. Maryland's own portal

and accessibility interface remain independent, so the state is not dependent on DPLA for primary access.

- **Western Maryland Migration:** The team is transferring eligible Western Maryland Digital Library material in large batches with ContentDM assistance. Because older projects have inconsistent metadata and standards, staff must review and remediate records before publication, but the bulk transfer has accelerated progress toward releasing additional content.

Database Usage Reporting: Michael Johnson reported modest, steady database-use growth through the second quarter but said the third-quarter report is delayed while the team investigates an anomalous decline in school usage with Gale and internal systems staff.

- **Usage Trends:** Second-quarter usage showed small increases without overall declines. However, the team has encountered several unusual statistical anomalies this year, including irregular Gale usage patterns.
- **Data Investigation:** Michael Johnson and Sean from the systems team have been reviewing configurations and working with Gale to identify and correct reporting irregularities. Gale has been engaged in investigating the issues.
- **Q3 Report Delay:** The third-quarter report was not released because school usage showed a sufficiently large and unusual drop to indicate inaccurate data or a system issue. Michael said the report will be published after the team completes its investigation.

SLRC And Collection Updates: Liz reported that SLRC is regrouping after the legislative session, highlighted its current exhibitions and lending collections, and announced an upcoming special collections conference; Rudy also provided an update on the delayed Malcolm X memorial.

- **Exhibits And Collections:** SLRC is hosting a large Prince photography exhibit and continues circulating the Malcolm X collection. The Francis Ellen Watkins Harper collection was completed but is being reprinted because an outsourced vendor used an unstable production process; Liz expected availability in approximately a few weeks.
- **Collection Access:** Liz said the circulating collections can be found through the statewide technology lending site on MyTurn and offered them for loan. Rudy indicated that the Malcolm X collection may support the planned Malcolm X memorial.
- **Special Collections Conference:** SLRC's first special collections conference was scheduled for the following day. Liz invited participants to attend and bring questions for a lunch Q&A.

AI Council and Summit: Shane said the proposed AI council remains planned after completion of the Office 365 migration and announced a public-facing AI summit at Pratt on August 26 focused on workforce development and digital literacy.

Broadband Committee Liaison: Rudy said a successor for Carla is being coordinated with Morgan, and because no current committee member volunteered to serve as interim liaison, the group will wait for the successor's nomination.

Future Meeting Dates

Sailor Advisory Committee	SLRC Commission
September 29, 2026	TBD
TBD	TBD
TBD	TBD
TBD	TBD

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 10:44 am.