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Maine Library Commission Minutes : April 25, 2022

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Maine Library Commission Meeting

242 State Street

April 25, 2022

Joyce Taylor; Heidi Grimm; Charles Campo; Art Turley; Jeff Cabral; Michael Hays; Don Wismer; Richard Thompson; James Ritter; Ben Treat; Sarah Campbell; James Jackson Sanborn; Janet McKenney; Alison Maxell; Adam Fisher

Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

LSTA Evaluation

We did well on our LSTA evaluation. Two areas where we met partial expectations, including large print books. We are reassessing the collection and how E-book technology fits in with serving those patrons. The other area we need to work on is around databases and learning and that's where our Bendable project will help us bridge that gap.

We are using that evaluation as we are crafting our new five-year plan. The plan draft will be up for discussion at our next commission meeting. Before we submit the final draft, the paperwork needs to be submitted to the Attorney General for review.

Maine Infonet Update

Maine Infonet Preconference will be held in conjunction with the MLA conference with the goal of hammering out some longstanding issues related to policies and communication related to how libraries work together in different systems.

Infonet was the beneficiary of ARPA Funding allowing us to expand access to MaineCat and improve services for current users. That's what makes our preconference work important

Updating Polaris software to Sierra software. This will be live by September. There's a cohort of libraries that we've identified as good for the MILS system and will be working to bring them on after the migration occurs.

Had our first connection to a library that is not in a Sierra system for lending and requesting. Blue Hill is now using an API to integrate with MaineCat. We are working to do something similar with libraries in the Balsam and Apollo systems.

Recently expanded Minerva into Goodall Library (Sanford) and Brewer Public Library recently.

Following the URSUS retreat last summer, the group has been exploring alternatives to Sierra. An RFI went out recently to identify options for alternative systems. There's a possibility that URSUS may become two different systems (one Academic, and one with BPL, MSL PPL and the Law and Legislative Library) in recognition of the fact that the work of public libraries and academic libraries have different needs and the marketplace for software has split to be more responsive to different types of libraries.

We will take responses from the RFI to craft an RFP. By July we will likely be looking at the RFP proposals with the idea of a migration being complete by the summer of 2023.

Commission Memberships

A slate of names of potential commission members has been presented to the Governor, but there hasn't been action on those nominations yet. We may want to revisit that slate and provide the Governor with some different options of potential members to work from. At this point, every member of the commission is serving on an expired term. That puts us in a situation where it might be possible that everyone is replaced at once. This scenario could be problematic because there would be no institutional knowledge on the board.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:22 PM