

Evergreen Governance Committee  
Tuesday, September 21, 2010  
1pm EDT

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Organization</u></b>
Elizabeth McKinney	GPLS
Jim Corridan	Indiana State Library
Sylvia Watson	Indiana State Library
Dan Scott	Conifer
Galen Charlton	Equinox, Inc.
Ian Walls	Bywater Solutions
Amy Terlaga	Bibliomation

#### NOTES:

The meeting began with a question from Dan Scott. He was wondering why we had decided to close membership of the Governance Committee at the last meeting. (Dan could not attend the August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting so he missed that discussion.) Elizabeth explained that the committee decided that since this was a temporary committee, that it would be better for us to continue with existing members right now and if anyone else wanted to join, they could participate in the Communications sub-committee of the Governance Committee.

We then discussed our plans for communicating to the membership the work we've been doing. The goal should be to present our completed work to the membership at the next Evergreen International Conference in Austin, but that we should also give members a chance to provide feedback along the way (e.g., bylaws), leading up to the conference.

#### Future governance committee meetings

Dan Scott asked the group if there might be a better method of conducting these governance committee meetings so that it is easier for others to follow the discussion and contribute if they want to. Dan suggested IRC meetings and/or discussions on the open-ils-general listserv. Discussion ensued but no final decision was made regarding the format for future meetings.

#### Bylaws

Dan recommended that we post the bylaws as they stand now so that we can receive member feedback on this draft.

Should we open these up to email discussion on the general list?

Elizabeth asked what the last version of the bylaws was. September 1<sup>st</sup> – sent out. Dan resent this last version to entire governance committee.

#### Conference 2011

The announcement, including the dates and venue, is imminent. Jim Corridan is volunteering someone from the Indiana State Library. Elizabeth has committed people from GPLS. Amy also volunteered her time.

Amy will contact Deanna Frazee to see where they're at.

#### Evergreen Web Team

Dan Scott asked if there is a way to identify what's missing now from the current Evergreen website and then improve upon the existing structure and content.

Galen suggested that we publicize more what the web team is doing; encourage discussion on the mailing list.

Amy expressed her concern that if there wasn't complete buy-in by the Evergreen community at large regarding the web team's approach to the planning process that we need to resolve this as soon as possible. Dan and Galen indicated that there was the perception out there that this planning process had been too closed up to this point.

#### Software Freedom Conservancy

The SFC will be meeting later this week to discuss the possibility of our acceptance into this 501c3 umbrella open source software organization. Dan hopes to hear something from them by next week.

#### Rules of Governance (more bylaws discussion)

Jim asked if we were in agreement on the purposes of the governance group. There are five purposes listed. Is there committee buy-in? Yes, the purposes are broad enough and don't exclude anything.

They are excerpted here from the bylaws draft:

#### **Section 1.2 (Purpose).**

- (a) This Foundation exists for nonprofit purposes and, until resolved otherwise by the Oversight Board, shall operate under the protection of a 501(c)(3) organization. The Foundation shall be governed and shall operate in a manner that does not jeopardize the umbrella organization's 501(c)(3) status.
- (b) The purpose of the Foundation is to
  - (i) promote, support, and advance the Evergreen software;
  - (ii) support and facilitate the growth of the international community of Evergreen users; (ii)  
foster and protect the Evergreen assets;
  - (iii) serve as a resource and communication device for Evergreen users; and
  - (iv) serve as a funding and grant seeking source for cooperative development projects.

Jim asked if there was still an issue regarding the decision-making process of what goes into Evergreen. Jim wanted to know how the process currently works in the Evergreen community.

Dan explained that currently there is a review process by the developers with commit access that happens before patches are added to Evergreen.

Elizabeth asked if there could be a more formal process to getting the roadmap details out to the rest of the Evergreen community.

Dan suggested that a newsletter based on the developers' IRC meetings could be used to serve that purpose. Elizabeth did not think that a newsletter would be adequate.

Jim asked for an explanation regarding the code committing process, especially now that we've grown the Evergreen developer community so that others besides Equinox are involved in that process. Dan agreed that the Evergreen developer community was growing; for instance, both Jason Stephenson and Tom Berezansky from MVLC have become very involved in the process.

Jim asked who makes the decision to let others in to the group of core committers. Dan explained that the current core committers vote to accept a new committer into the group.

Amy asked what the practice has been in the community to announce a new committer. Dan indicated that this has not been standardized since there haven't been too many new developers that have emerged, asking for acceptance into the core committer group. When he was accepted, Mike Rylander blogged about it, but he couldn't remember if there was an announcement regarding Galen Charlton's and Joe Atzberger's acceptance. Amy suggested that the list of core committers be put up on the Evergreen website, and Dan replied that this information was already on the website.

Jim asked about the process of getting a patch reviewed by the developer community. Dan explained that he/she can announce it on the developer list and others will review it, help to improve upon it. A document outlining this process is available at <http://evergreen-ils.org/dokuwiki/doku.php?id=contributing>

### Copyright

Jim asked about the Evergreen software itself and who owns the copyright at the moment. All of the code work up until 2006 is owned by the Georgia Public Library Service. This copyright will be transferred over to the Evergreen Foundation once the Foundation has been established.

Jim and Elizabeth expressed some concern regarding the potential for a communication disconnect between the developers and the rest of the Evergreen community. Jim suggested that we form a sub-committee that could flesh out some kind of formal structure between the Foundation and the developers.

Dan suggested that the Software Freedom Conservancy might be able to provide some guidance and insight as to how we should proceed.

Elizabeth recommended that we table this discussion until we receive a reply from The Software Freedom Conservancy. Dan suggested that we open a dialogue with the SFC now. Elizabeth asked that Dan facilitate the discussion. Dan will report back to the committee.

#### More Bylaws Discussion

Elizabeth asked if we were now ready to send out our rules of governance to the membership. There are still some areas in which Sylvia is not sure if there is consensus.

Elizabeth and Amy recommended that we highlight those areas where we were unsure and solicit feedback from the membership.

#### Interim Board

The committee proposes that the current governance committee will act as the initial Board before a new member Board is elected at the next conference.

#### Next Steps

Sylvia will send out the draft of the governance bylaws, highlighting those areas that still need to be decided.

Dan will contact the SFC to ask for their guidance regarding the development of a formal relationship between the Evergreen developer community and the Evergreen community at large.

Amy will post the minutes of the August and September governance committee meetings.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19, 2010, 1pm Eastern time.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Terlaga  
Bibliomation, Inc.