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To: Steve Clegg <steve@benbrooklibrary.org>; Chantele Hancock <Chantele@richlandhills.com>; Jana Prock <jprock@cityofkeller.com>; Lana Ewell <LEwell@wataugatx.org>; Sara Miller <smiller@burlesontx.com>; Lesly Smith <lmsmith@haltomcitytx.com>

Subject: RE: possible consortium change

Good morning,

I had an opportunity to discuss this with my Assistant City Manager this morning. She was adamant that we would need to redo the contract to make it even stronger than it is now. Please allow me to explain:

- We all agree that access across the County for our residents is important. That is the best outcome of MetrOPAC, in my opinion. That is what I would like to have continue.
- The City of Fort Worth is **not** interested in forming a true consortium. My ACM made this very clear. The City's preference is to be the **regional provider**, like we are with storm water, water, and other city services. This means that we would need the contract to reflect this even more strongly than it does now. For example,
 - All of our circulation rules would have to match and Fort Worth would set them. We would no longer be able to customize Polaris for each of your separate rules, with some exceptions. This would mean that check-out length, charges, fines and fees etc. would all be required to match. We will need to discuss special collections that aren't shared, non-Dewey collections, and how we handle all the special collections in a way that isn't time consuming and restrictive. Basically there may be limited independence when it comes to material.
 - The library card sign-up process will need to be easier and we'd need to handle even more for each other. In general, the entire experience for patrons would need to be more seamless.
 - The contract would need to reflect year over year price increases.
 - If the contract states that each of the libraries has contracts with each other, you will need to do that and I'm assuming it would need to be a tri-party agreement with Fort Worth. This would be determined by the City of Fort Worth Legal Department.

I think **regional provider** is a better description of what we have currently than a consortium but it's not as well defined in the contract as it needs to be. To me, the issue is that we call it a consortium but it isn't and I am obligated to follow the contract. I understand that a true consortium is desired but from the perspective of a large city, it is not in the city's best interest to structure the agreement that way.

I'd like to continue our relationship so we can offer material across the region. I suggest we exercise our additional contract year so we can keep having this conversation. Any library that is not interested and wants to leave the relationship is welcome. It still needs to be discussed with me because there will be additional charges to leave and get your information to you, as per the current contract and the sooner we can start that process, the better.

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