



# CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Information & Technology Services

## Bloomington Digital Underground BDUAC Meeting Memorandum

Per Executive Orders issued by the Governor, this meeting was conducted electronically.

### **Thursday, March 3rd, 2022 4PM**

Location: Zoom

Facilitator: Rick Dietz

Board Attendance: Mike Allen, Mike Satterfield, Mike Trotzke

Staff Attendance: Desiree King, Rick Dietz

Members of the public: Eric Ost

### **ITS Department Updates**

- The Common Council appointed a new BDUAC member, Mike Satterfield. He works for the Information Services (IT) department at MCCSC. We learned last minute today about his appointment and let him know about the meeting. (Satterfield joined the meeting at 4:20 pm.)
- It is likely that the Governor won't be renewing the emergency order that allows public meetings to be conducted remotely. We may see legislation signed that rescinds the order but allows the State to continue to receive federal COVID support funds. Dietz expects the next meeting will need to meet in-person with hybrid capabilities. A physical quorum will be required in the McCloskey Room at City Hall. Dietz and King will need to be notified in advance if members wish to attend remotely. Members will be contacted well in advance of the next meeting about hybrid guidelines. Can expect COVID policies at the City to change slightly. Members of the public will be allowed beyond the atrium but only into designated meeting rooms. Dietz's intent for BDUAC is that public meetings will be on-site, but will include remote capabilities. OWL virtual meeting units have been installed in meeting rooms for this purpose. Public meetings with hybrid capabilities were recommended for years and the pandemic forced them into place. These have been better arrangements to attend for both board/commission members and the public.
- ITS has been performing an extensive BDU census to accurately document maintenance holes and conduit. This project has almost concluded.
- ITS has significant funding for infrastructure available this year from CARES and ARPA funds. Will be updating network in several City facilities. Public Safety facilities will be updated this weekend.

### **City-wide Fiber Broadband Initiative**

Talks with prospective broadband provider Meridiam continue to move forward. The City has been working on a master agreement with them recently. Still trying to work out if TIF or abatement process would be involved. Currently looking at preliminary maps and both parties are motivated to come to an agreement and make this project happen. Bloomington is one of four communities involved. Other communities feel this is moving forward in a positive way. Also continuing to work on a digital equity plan.

Trotzke asked who are the other communities involved. Rick replied they are Shelbyville, Columbus, and Martinsville. Bartholomew County (separate from Columbus) as a whole is also involved but that is a separate project.

Ost asked what would Meridiam's cost be? Rick said he can't share that information under the current nondisclosure agreement but anticipated cost of the build is similar to Axia's.

Ost: Will deployment be phased?

Dietz: Once funding is in place, the entire process will be implemented until completion. Permitting will be involved so phases will occur in that sense.

Ost: Will the network be open access?

Dietz: Yes, after an initial period, the network will be open to additional providers. Meridiam is in negotiations with an internet service provider (ISP).

Ost: Will open access be throughout community? AT&T is deploying some fiber, including in the Elm Heights neighborhood this past summer. But AT&T is not trying to offer it everywhere.

Dietz: Yes, Meridiam's aim is to offer everyone fiber access everywhere throughout the City.

Ost: Welcome to Mike [Satterfield]. Pleased to see the Council appointed him.

Mike Satterfield: Has Meridiam provided a model ISP?

Dietz: Yes, they've provided criteria we're satisfied with. Longtime City consultant CTC Technology and Energy recommends the ISP.

Satterfield.: Did City put forth any requirements that are publicly available?

Dietz: Yes, City put forward an RFI in 2016. The City narrowed the search down from twelve to six to four to two to one. That's how we ended up talking to Axia. Mayor Hamilton is looking for a fiber-based gigabit service that covers the entire community and some element of control to influence what it looks like and include priorities like digital equity. Current engagement has largely the same goals as the RFI process. Also looking at how we support low-income residents while supplying access for the whole city.

Trotzke: The 2016 RFI got everyone's head around what we were looking for, no need to do it again.

### **Digital Equity**

Earlier in the day Dietz participated on a panel for Next Century Cities Regional Broadband conference, talking about Digital Equity programs. At least \$1.25 Billion dollars will be available for digital equity from the federal infrastructure act.

King shared final report updates from 2020 Digital Equity Grants recipients. All six recipients were local organizations whose projects aim to bridge the digital divide and provide digital equity to Bloomington citizens.

King: It was a great first year for the grant program. Recipients did encounter some setbacks due to COVID, including supply chain issues and staffing volunteers, but the projects all did well and served nearly the number of residents they were hoping to serve. Five of the six recipients

returned as 2021 grant recipients and four of those five are continuing their projects with 2021 funds.

Trotzke asked who is on committee and King replied the committee consists of BDUAC member Mike Sullivan, Rafi Hasan, MCCSC Equity and Inclusion Coordinator, Shatoyia Moss, Safe and Civil City Director in the City's Community and Family Resources Department, and Luddy School of Informatics faculty and former IU First Lady Laurie Burns McRobbie. Inquiring now if board members wish to continue on 2022.

### **Member Reports (Items not on the agenda)**

Trotzke: April 8th, 8pm, Combine at the Mill is happening. Scaled back to 100 people inside the Mill on one day, instead of holding a larger gathering over three days. Will also have a drone demonstration, music, and we're coordinating with Upland to use the Wood Shop for an after party. Also closed on the Periodic sale, will probably move into space below Trades District Garage, and the CEO of Exclaimer, a UK-based company, is looking at building an AI lab.

No other member reports.

Meeting adjourned

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