



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Information & Technology Services

Bloomington Digital Underground BDUAC Meeting Memorandum

Per the state disaster emergency order that ended March 3rd, 2022, this meeting was held in a hybrid format with board members attending both virtually and in person.

Thursday, April 7th, 2022 4PM

Location: Zoom
Facilitator: Rick Dietz
Board Attendance In Person: Mike Allen, Chris Robb, Mike Satterfield, Mike Sullivan
Board Attendance Remote: Michelle Cole
Staff Attendance: Desiree King, Rick Dietz
Members of the public: None

This meeting was the first hybrid meeting held since the Indiana Governor ended the state disaster emergency order. Quorum was not met until approximately 4:25 pm. Committee member introductions were made while waiting on a quorum. Dietz reminded members that until quorum is met, this is just a conversation.

Introductions:

Second meeting for Satterfield, first in-person meeting. One of the first people to see the BDU built, went through some iterations before the buildout in 2005. He currently takes care of different systems at MCCSC, firewalls, etc. Satterfield has taken Tim Pritchett's place on BDUAC. Tim's successor has been named, that person will fill the Information Services Director position in the summer.

Mike Sullivan has been on committee for many years. Was an ER physician before entering into an IT career.

Chris Robb, IU GlobalNOC, manages network engineers, has served on BDUAC for 5-6 years.

Michelle Cole, Vector Solutions (formerly Envisage Technologies) software for public safety, education, public space, still hiring a lot of people.

Mike Allen joined the meeting after introductions had concluded.

Quorum Present with arrival of Mike Allen

ITS Department Updates

- Dietz reported that ITS has concluded BDU infrastructure census, providing accurate look at manholes, placement of conduit and count.

- The Wifi in the Parks effort, an element of the Digital Equity Strategic Plan, is moving along. It has been delayed by supply chain issues. Moving forward with the 3rd street (Buskirk) People's parks, and work should conclude by next month. Larger parks are Butler and Crestmont, waiting on hardware. Coordinating with MCCSC on these parks.

Sullivan: Is wifi access 24/7?

Dietz: Switchyard Park access is set to park hours, we will need to work with Parks and Recreation Department. They have concerns about people camping in the park.

Robb: How do you deal with people who live near Switchyard, accessing the Wifi the entire time?

Dietz: Haven't had an issue yet, but will need to monitor and evaluate in other parks. Set amount of bandwidth will be available, speed dependent on number of people using it..

Sullivan: Is there a target minimal bandwidth?

Dietz: 100 Mbps

Allen: How many devices connected to an AP? What AP is being used?

Dietz: Unsure, but one that allows for many dozens.

- City has contracted with company called Dentons, who performs consulting and lobbying. They are assisting the City with taking advantage of the best ways to use federal funds for cybersecurity, infrastructure, and digital equity. Funds will be funneled through states and determined how they will be allocated. Dentons has been helpful, knows what's happening at the federal level.

City-wide Fiber Broadband Initiative

Dietz shared that the partnership with Meridiam continues to move forward positively. The City is currently working on a master agreement with Meridiam and both parties are strongly committed to moving this project forward.

Sullivan: Is there some sort of deliverable? A memorandum of understanding (MOU), or a letter of intent (LOI)?

Dietz: We already have an LOI. We are working on a more detailed agreement and it will be made publicly available. Will share if it touches on the BDU, or this committee's core responsibilities.. Project would tap into the City's unused conduit and BDUAC members would discuss and decide to recommend if this is a good use of the BDU.

Satterfield and Dietz discussed number of access conduits: one or two in most places

Robb: Any place it's already filled up? Looking for fiber swap?

Dietz: No, most conduit going to City buildings, providing access to our network, laterals are just for that parcel.

Robb: Will the BDUAC weigh in before the agreement goes public or afterwards?

Dietz: This body will probably not review the contract, but have discussions about the process that emerges. The Board of Public Works (BPW) would need to authorize use of conduit. I will bring it to the BDUAC for recommendation and pass that recommendation to the BPW.

Dietz: The BDU data is mostly incorporated into ArcGIS. Maps don't offer substantive data, but looking at maintenance holes, we can see significant info on how it's managed.

Robb: Does City execute agreement directly? How is it approved?

Dietz: City (Mayor) will execute master agreement, other agreements will go through other bodies. Multiple checks in this process.

Satterfield: No oversight by Indiana Regulatory Commission?

Dietz: Some involvement there for Meridiam, but largely that Meridiam would be operating as an infrastructure provider.. Will look different because they're not operating as an ISP. Will be using the Right-of-Way and will do so in accordance with state law.

Once an agreement is reached, will be moving forward with construction rapidly.

Robb: Other communities being handled separately? Is there anything about their arrangements that could affect Bloomington?

Dietz: Meridiam doesn't want wildly different agreements. We're the largest municipality of the group, and have the most cohesive vision. Our LOI trickled down to theirs.

Robb: What level of coordination is happening between the cities?

Dietz: Not a lot. Meridiam saw that Bloomington wasn't big enough on its own for its investment objectives. I set up initial coordinating meetings with other communities and Meridiam took over after that. Prospects for project continue to look positive. May be a heightened level of engagement in the next month or two from BDUAC. Will be the first to let everyone know.

Cole: [in chat] Rick, forever the optimist!

Robb: Has Smithville picked back up their local activity?

Dietz: Both AT&T and Smithville know about the project and may be accelerating their own deployments. No indication that there is a systematic approach.

Robb and Allen discussed that Smithville is looking at Sherwood Oaks neighborhood on the edge of City limits.

Dietz: Meridiam can build outside the City, but we want to make sure City residences are covered first. Proposed annexation areas are included.

Digital Equity

King talked about the 2022 Digital Equity Grants award year. She shared that the 2022 Digital Equity Grants process will begin soon. Planning on the application period being May 2 - June 10. An information session will again be held virtually on Tuesday, May 10th at 10am via Zoom. This year the grant funds moved to ITS's general fund budget. Previously, grant funds were a part of Mayor Hamilton's Recover Forward initiative and were placed in a special budget line.

King asked BDUAC members to share information about the Grants program with any local not-for-profits who might be interested. King and Dietz would like to see the applicant pool grow again this year. The 2020 award year had six applicants who were all awarded funds. In 2021 all nine applicants also received award funds.

Member Reports (Items not on the agenda)

Cole: Speaking at the Combine tomorrow with Brad Wisler about growing your company for an exit. Most of her life has been helping people through change management. Talking to CFC about other properties. CFO opinion is we worked hard for space, shouldn't spend time building it out, looking at a certified tech park. Looking at growing and retaining business, highest attrition was 7% last year. Transition will be a lot of disruption.

Sent son to college, he's doing well.

Went to Antarctica. Her goal to rock climb on all continents.

Sullivan: About to become a grandfather, excited about that.

Satterfield: Working through transition at MCCSC with a new IT director starting this summer.

Dietz: Partnering with Google.org on an app they've built called CiviForm. Meant to unify government and not-for-profits to help enroll families in government benefits and programs. Will be trying it out on Parks and Recreation's pool access for low income families, Utilities' bill assistance program, and ITS donation/recycle program that donates surplus equipment. Also trying to pull in other players through connections in the Federal General Services Administration. Might be first City to use login.gov for access and authentication. Seattle began using it last year, a couple more cities in the cohort this year. Also looking at Access Indiana.

Meeting adjourned

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