



# 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 able to attend both virtually and in person.

### **Thursday, August 18th, 2022 4PM**

Location: Zoom  
Facilitator: Rick Dietz  
Board Attendance In Person: Mike, Allen, Marianne Chitwood, Mike Trotzke, Chris Robb, Mike Satterfield, Mike Sullivan  
Board Attendance Remote:  
Staff Attendance: Desiree King, Rick Dietz  
Members of the public:

### **ITS Department Updates**

- Continuing the City's Digital Equity initiative through the Wifi in the Parks project. Third Street and Peoples Parks are close to completion. Crestmon and Butler parks are also part of this initiative. The project has been delayed due to supply chain issues but is moving forward again.

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

Received approval from RDC, Plan Commission, and Council. The BDUAC recommendation also went before the BPW for conduit use. Additional public process will happen when permit process starts. Permit requests for as many as three construction zones could be submitted next week. These permits will go before the BPW.

Robb: Do all permits have to go through BPW?

Dietz: Yes, because of the type of permits. It's also good for visibility. Large neighborhoods of 300-500 households are in each zone. This will let these residents know to expect activity.

Allen: Does this connect at all to neighborhood associations? Does a neighborhood resident need to come in and request construction to happen.

Dietz: No, the petitioner is Meridiam.

Allen: Just didn't know if the resident has any say.

Robb: Have they shared how they're prioritizing the build?

Dietz: Yes, starting on the East and Southeast side.

Robb: This is a two-year agreement?

Dietz: Yes, half of the process is permitting, the other half is aerial and requires Meridiam to work with Duke for utility pole placement.

Allen: Anticipating new poles?

Dietz: Unlikely, should be placing existing infrastructure.

Robb: Such a things as City-owned poles?

Dietz: Yes, but rare. Some are owned by Public Works but they're typically placed in a park or other area we own.

Dietz: Construction firm is called AEG, based out of Georgia, do a lot of fiber projects. Currently they're looking for lay down sites for all their equipment. City is assisting with the search.

On the business side, Meridiam has established Hoosier Networks, LLC. Interim CEO and general manager is in Bloomington today meeting with potential partners. City is assisting them with finding a location for their business. Agreement stipulates that their office will be based in Bloomington while also supporting partner communities and any future communities.

The chosen ISP hasn't finalized their contract, but Dietz understands that should happen very soon and will be publicly announced. The ISP CEO has also been visiting Bloomington and partner communities.

The Digital Equity portion of the agreement is still being worked out. Trying to determine is funds will be non-reverting in the City's budget and if we will reimburse Merdiam.

So permitting process is next, construction will probably not begin until October. May have customers live before the end of the year. If not then, certainly in the first quarter of 2023.

Allen: Anecdotal observation: AT&T and Comcast are now pushing fiber availability in the community. It previously wasn't available.

Dietz: Yes, it seems that they suddenly have the resources to do this.

Did receive initial complaints from residents about orange conduit sticking out of people's yards. This is AT&T ramping up the fiber effort.

Ultimately want residents to have high-quality service. If the Merdiam agreement causes AT&T and Comcast to broaden availability, then that's good.

Trotzke: What is the actual process for determining the build order throughout town? Any insight into their decisions?

Dietz: Only a little bit. Can't disclose contract negotiations, but they're planning on basing their core network on the southeast side. This area of town also doesn't have a lot of poles available. They'll move faster in areas with conduit already available underground. Main milestone goal is that the entire area is covered and the adoption rate is the same in low-income areas.

Sullivan: What are they plugin into?

Dietz: They are only using excess conduit of ours.

Robb: Anything built into the contract about the ISP?

Dietz: We have indirect requirements with Meridiam placed on the ISP, but not a direct relationship with the ISP.

## **Digital Equity**

Grant is in its third annual cycle. Committee met and reviewed applications. Came to a

consensus. Committee: Shatoyia Moss, Emma Woods, ROI Digital Equity Coordinator, Laurie Burns-McRobbie, former IU First Lady Serve IT, Mike Sullivan  
Desiree detailed the recipients and their funds and projects.

MCUM not awarded...

Trotzke: Will probably always not have enough money for growing applicant pool.

Robb and Chitwood were glad to see the applicants and their projects, think they will be very impactful on the community.

Robb moved, Trotske seconded. To entertain a motion to approve the Digital Equity Grants subcommittee's recommendations. Approved 6-0.

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

Robb: Still looking for space for his company. Possible space in the Trades and 4th Street garage, Johnson Creamery, David Hays site. Looking for 3500 square feet. Company based in California, have to be earthquake resistant even though based in

Meeting adjourned

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