

City of Bloomington: Bloomington Digital Underground Advisory Committee

Date of Record: June 16, 2005

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Summary

Bloomington Digital Underground Advisory Committee (BDUAC) meeting held Thursday June 16, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. in the McCloskey Room of City Hall at Showers, 401 N. Morton St., Bloomington, IN.

Roll Call

Committee Members Present

Brian Kleber, Small Business Development

Mark McMath, Bloomington, Bloomington Hospital

Bruce Myers, Kiva

Eric Ost, TCC

Charlie Webb, CallNet

Linda Williamson, Bloomington Economic Development Corporation

Committee Members Absent

Vacancy

IU Appointee

City of Bloomington Staff Present

Rick Dietz, Director, Bloomington ITS

Rick Routon, Assistant Director. Bloomington ITS

Guests Present

David Sabbaugh, City Council

Handouts

1. June 16, 2005 Meeting Agenda
2. May 5, 2005 Minutes
3. May 19, 2005 Minutes

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.

- I. Review of May 5, May 19 Minutes
 - a. Bruce Myers asked about progress with HoosierNet and whether a timeframe was established.
 - i. Rick Dietz stated that the BDUAC had gathered preliminary specifications and had forwarded documents to the Legal Department for review.
 - ii. Charlie Webb stated that the BDUAC should ensure legal compliance with the existing ION contract.
 1. Eric Ost stated that HoosierNet could immediately qualify for service as a non-profit entity and that the ION contract should be posted for the public.
 - b. Linda Williamson asked about references to the Technology Park ownership (see May 19 notes – section III.K).
 - i. Rick Dietz stated that Bret Skilbred was likely referring to the Purdue Technology Park ownership and that all major providers would have an ownership stake in the Bloomington Technology Park.
 - c. May 5 minutes and May 19 minutes approved.
- II. Strategic Plan Review
 - a. Charlie Webb asked about the responsibility of the city government in operating BDUAC assets as a business.
 - i. David Sabbaugh stated that the city started the project to maintain low costs versus outsourcing or subsidizing private development.
 - ii. Rick Dietz stated that, from a return-on-investment (ROI) perspective, the City Council originally wanted to reap benefits from the project.
 - iii. Linda Williamson stated that the BDUAC should review whether to transfer powers to the Telecommunications Council based on changing priorities.
 - iv. Rick Dietz stated that the BDUAC should address these issues and review the recommendations from the Strategic Plan in the next few meetings.
 - b. Bruce Myers stated that the BDUAC should reevaluate the need for a public/private partnership and whether private businesses would find such a partnership viable.
 - i. Mark McMath stated that the BDUAC should look at the end-results of the policies to determine whether the investments in the infrastructure have increased the viability for private businesses.
 - c. David Sabbaugh stated that he did not think that the primary goals of the BDU (economic development, one-time-only construction) had been met.
 - i. Linda Williamson stated that the BDU has been a tremendous marketing tool for the area in that many businesses have inquired about fiber availability. She added that most of the inquiries have been for future development and not current needs.
 - ii. Rick Dietz noted that the BDUAC has access to the Indiana University (IU) fiber map.
 - d. Linda Williamson stated that IU was a major group missing from the project and their participation would be necessary to continue in the planning process.
 - e. Eric Ost stated that a factor in not achieving goals comes from a lack of pricing policies and from the ION contract – a business would likely not want to pay ION for fiber access.
 - f. David Sabbaugh asked why, in previous meetings, Smithville Digital had retracted its request for access to BDU fiber.
 - i. Rick Dietz stated that it was likely issues with alternative paths and timeframe that provided a greater benefit to Smithville.
 - ii. Rick Dietz also stated that another probable factor was that a commercial provider would want control over its infrastructure.
 - iii. Eric Ost recommended creating incentives for companies to buy into the BDU infrastructure.
 - iv. Both David Sabbaugh and Mark McMath recommended having stakeholders involved in future meetings to get all necessary input for BDUAC direction.

1. Rick Dietz stated that he had a good experience with the previous public input session.
 2. Linda Williamson stated that the BDUAC should inform the public about the services offered to prevent confusion (e.g. not being able to link directly to the BDU infrastructure from home).
 3. David Sabbaugh stated that getting IU to participate in these meetings should be a major priority.
 4. Linda Williamson stated that the BDUAC should also engage Matt Pierce (Indiana state representative) for legislative representation and for strategic planning purposes.
- III. Agenda for the next meeting
- a. Rick Dietz stated that the BDUAC should concentrate on issues with governance/oversight and on recommendations from the Strategic Plan.
 - b. Bruce Myers stated that the BDUAC should try concentrate on issues of governance, pricing, and ownership before taking on recommendations from the Strategic Plan.
 - i. Rick Dietz stated that ownership issues were policy issues and would likely be decided outside of the BDUAC.
 - ii. Charlie Webb reiterated that the BDUAC should consider whether broadband is a necessity and requires city ownership (as a quasi-utility).
 - c. The BDUAC agreed to meet next on Thursday, July 7, 2005.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Minutes submitted by Matt Nagle