City of Bloomington: Bloomington Digital Underground Advisory Committee

Date of Record: March 25, 2004

Summary:

Bloomington Digital Underground Advisory Committee meeting held on Thursday, March 25th, 2004 at 4:00 pm in the McCloskey Conference Room of City Hall at Showers, 401 N. Morton, Bloomington, Indiana

Roll Call

Committee Members Present:
>   Rick Dietz, Indiana University
>   Mark McMath, Bloomington Hospital
>   Charlie Webb, CallNet

Guests Present:
>   Chris Dickens, representing Kiva Networking
>   David Sabbagh, Bloomington City Council

Staff Present:
>   Gregory Volan, CIO, City of Bloomington
>   Heather Collins, Intern, ITS, City of Bloomington

Committee Members Absent:
>   Bruce Myers, Kiva
>   Dennis Morrison, Center for Behavioral Health
>   Linda Williamson, Bloomington Economic Development Corporation
>   Brian Voss, Indiana University

Meeting was called to order by Greg Volan at 4:10 pm

I. Administrative Business: Review of Minutes, Appointment of Chair
   a. It was decided that the names of BDU Advisory Committee members absent from meetings would be included in the minutes. It was also decided that Heather Collins would sign the minutes.
   b. Mark McMath moved to accept the minutes; Rick Dietz seconded the motion.
   c. Greg Volan suggested that the committee appoint a chairperson at the next meeting, since only three official committee members were present.

II. Brief Review of the BDU
   a. Greg Volan reiterated the key issue facing the City re: the BDU: potentially working with two businesses in town who are interested in purchasing fiber, and coming up with a pricing structure for that fiber.
   b. Greg also reiterated that the goals of the BDU are much broader than simply connecting City buildings; to this end, the City needs to decide whether it makes sense for it to own and manage this asset or not.

III. Preparation for Meeting with Consultants & Discussion
   a. The committee's next meeting on April 8th will include a presentation/Q&A session with John Goldman from Infocomm. Some issues the advisory committee would like to address with him are:

      i. Mark McMath: What have other cities done with their fiber optic infrastructure? Have they been satisfied? What are pros and cons of keeping and selling this asset? Are there case studies that we could look at?

     ii. Rick Dietz: Given our infrastructure, what are our options? Why have municipalities chosen one option over the other? What in-house expertise would this require?

   iii. Charlie Webb: (to address the issue that we cannot sell to end-users) How have cities dealt with the issue of competing fiber in the ground?

b. The group discussed a recent article (http://news.com.com/2100-1033-5166813.html) about a municipal government network developed for a school system in Atlanta, Georgia.

c. The group again reviewed the BDU Policies.

d. Again, the possibility of coordinating efforts between the City and local service providers was discussed. The challenges inherent in this framework were also raised.

e. The group talked about the idea of creating a "BDU Planning Commission" under the City's Planning Department. The idea was that companies interested in laying fiber in Bloomington would need to submit a proposal to the Planning Commission.

      i. However, it was agreed that creating a Planning Commission would not meet the BDU's current timely issues.

f. The group again addressed the possibility of getting all stakeholders to work together and share locations of their fiber.

      i. Could the City potentially act as a facilitator between all stakeholders? Is there a way to appoint another "neutral" party to handle this?

g. Charlie Webb asked whether there are other government entities we should offer fiber to (e.g. Monroe County offices, Library).

      i. Greg Volan said that Bloomington Schools have 12 strands of fiber; in addition, there are some City buildings that are not yet connected to the City's network. There may be a possibility of "trading" strands with other fiber providers to meet this need.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Minutes submitted by Heather Collins, March 30, 2004