



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Information & Technology Services

City of Bloomington -- BDU Advisory Committee Minutes

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

Thursday, November 5th, 2020 4PM

Location: Zoom
Facilitator: Rick Dietz
Board Attendance: Tim Pritchett, Chris Robb, Mike Sullivan, Mike Trotzke
Staff Attendance: Desiree King, Rick Dietz

- 1) Convene / Attendance
- 2) Staff Reports
 - a) Administrative Business & Updates
 - i. Rick introduced Desiree as ITS's new Office Manager.
 - b) ITS Department Updates
 - i. Current fiber projects (Trades District Garage, Switchyard Park, BDU Mapping, others)
 - ii. Other projects
- 3) New Business (1)
 - a) Fiber Initiative and Digital Equity Strategic Plan
 - i. Digital Equity Strategic Plan
 - (1) Rick said the big survey was released in April and has met with stakeholders since then. CTC is the consultant working on the draft and the City is hoping to release it prior to Thanksgiving and get feedback from those in stakeholder discussions and the public. Will probably be an early evening meeting and will be held via Zoom. The Plan will be finalized mid-December and come back to this committee for feedback and then presented to the public. In addition, there is a regional plan going on for rural opportunities.

Tim: CDAB has broad representation from groups in Monroe County. Will share the survey link that CDAB currently has out. Rick said he will share that link on the email list.

Chris: Glad there is a public comment period. Feels like the pandemic has highlighted digital equity issues over the past nine months.

Rick said it's important to discuss being ready should funds become available for digital equity projects.
 - (2) Rick: A potential City-wide broadband partner was on site for several meetings last week. Bloomington makes up in the lack of single family homes by the number of apartment buildings. Despite virtual and socially distanced meetings, meeting was successful. We should know the company's decision on a partnership by the end of the week. Rick

confirmed the company is not Axia.

Mike S and Tim discussed Starlink, and that they install fiber in high-elevation areas. Chris says Bloomington is not on Starlink's radar because the area is too dense for satellite-deployed fiber. Rick said the potential partner is not concerned about 5G or satellite fiber. Rick said this development is really exciting, the company is very engaged and has made a significant investment on the part of their staff and leadership. This is the closest the City has been to a fiber provider in three years.

Mike S: Able to use any materials when working with Axia.?

Rick says yes, was able to provide some maps Quanta created for Axia to show potential connectivity.

Mike T asked if this company had any City requirements like Axis did. Rick said the City would offer services in exchange such as promotion or helping them get access across I-69. Mike S and Rick discussed next steps are finalizing the report, completing MOU. Payoff would be huge for community if partnership goes through.

Mike T asked if name was private, Rick said he can talk more about it at next meeting.

ii. Digital Equity Grants

Rick: The City has \$35,000 available for these grants. A small working group has been formed. The intent is to finalize all application materials next week and award grants in December in time to encumber funds before the end of the year.

iii. Digital Equity Grants Subcommittee

- 1) BDUAC members agreed on the individuals selected to serve on the subcommittee. Subcommittee comprised of: Dr. Michael Sullivan, Laurie McRobbie (Indiana University), Rafi Hasan (MMCS), and Shatoyia Moss (City of Bloomington Community and Family Resources).

4) Continuing Business

- a) CTP Certified Tech Park / Trades District Update
- b) Bloomington Networking Initiatives
 - i. Local, State & National
- c) ITS Special Projects and Initiatives
 - i. Partnership Initiatives: BMGHack (Civic Coding)
 - ii. Website, Open Data, Engagement
- d) IT Operations Challenges and Opportunities
- e) General Discussion (Topics of Interest to Members)

5) Member Reports (Items not on the agenda)

(a) Chris:

(1) Optical network and packet network being upgraded. Hope to complete by middle of next year.

(b) Tim:

- (1) Bid out for HP routers that are aged.
- (2) Gearing up for middle of night outage early next year.
- (3) Using new helpdesk software called Zendesk, much better than School Dude. Have lowered open tickets from 300 to 100-150 since migrating.

(c) Mike T:

(1) Recovering from the Combine. Only had 150 attendees, usually have 300 or more. Had a lot of great sessions. Tried the Gather.Town platform for Combine parties, a video

conferencing software with a figure.

(2) Had first meeting with contractors on Kiln building. Running into a lot of supply chain issues. Hoping to break ground soon.

(3) Removed Cheddar to a different host, keeping busy.

(4) Free Mill code school is up and running.

(d) Mike Allen

(1) Hosted Ignite through his cell phone, went well.

(2) Awaiting election results

(e) Mike S

(1) Nothing to report other than he is also awaiting election results

(f) Michelle

(1) Looking for employees. All roles can be remote and hoping to fill them before the end of the year.

6) Adjourn

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