



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, December 9th, 2020 4PM

Location: Zoom
Facilitator: Rick Dietz
Board Attendance: Mike Allen, Marianne Chitwood, Tim Pritchett, Mike Sullivan
Staff Attendance: Desiree King, Rick Dietz

- 1) Convene / Attendance
- 2) Staff Reports
 - a) Chitwood said a potential route to Chicago for Gigapop is moving along. All schools in IU are seeing a financial hit. Since students are fully remote, IU is testing staff/faculty more frequently. Anticipates that IU will continue remote work until 2022.
 - b) Pritchett is appreciative that MCCSC is a recipient of a Digital Equity grant. The corporation went back to only online learning with the exception of some special education students and students in the Extended Day program.
 - a) Administrative Business & Updates
 - i. Membership into 2021
 - 1) Dietz said most members are up for reappointment and he will send out individual messages to members. He has enjoyed working with everyone and hopes they continue their service on the BDUAC, especially given the larger amount of Digital Equity grants and the implementation of the Strategic Plan. Appointments end on January 31st, 2021.
 - b) ITS Department Updates
 - i. Current fiber projects (Trades District Garage, Switchyard Park, BDU Mapping, others)
 - ii. Other projects
 - 1) Dietz said the City continues to have promising discussions with a potential City-wide fiber provider. The potential provider is presenting a financial report to their stakeholders and the City hopes to hear something next week. He doesn't believe the funding party will kill the project at the financial point. Pritchett asked when a potential announcement would happen and Dietz said not until work was

happening. Dietz said no part of the project would require City Council approval at this time, and would fall heavily on the Administration.

- 3) New Business
 - a) Fiber Initiative and Digital Equity Strategic Plan
 - i. Digital Equity Strategic Plan
 - 1) Dietz said a week and a half ago a town hall was held for public comment. Attendance was light, but comments were good. One comment in particular was about developing engagement around state and federal governing bodies. Written comments were also received and sent to CTC to be incorporated in the final plan. CTC will return the final draft for review by the City next week and if satisfactory, the final plan will be released to the public. Aim is to convene a group of stakeholders early next year, including county government, IU, and local health and social organizations, to begin implementing the plan.
 - ii. Digital Equity Grants
 - 1) Grant program moved faster than expected since it was incorporated into the Recover Forward initiative. The sub-committee that the BDUAC approved at the last BDUAC meeting met twice and approved grant recipients and amounts. Dietz and King will work next week to disperse funds to recipients. Had a nice pool of applicants, some stronger than others. Other parties were interested but decided to pursue grants in 2021. All applicants were awarded grants and included Artisan Alley, Hotels for Homelessness (a part of New Leaf New Life), MCPL, MCCSC, Area 10 Agency on Aging, and TechHeroes (a part of Farmer House). Dietz detailed what each organization had proposed to. Review panel consisted of Dr. Michael Sullivan, Laurie McRobbie (Indiana University), Rafi Hasan (MMCSC), and Shatoyia Moss (City of Bloomington Community and Family Resources). Dietz is pleased with the grant's first year, the recipients, and the amounts awarded. Looking forward to the 2021 process.

Sullivan said the process went quickly and smoothly thanks to Rick's organization and he's happy with the results.
- 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)
- 6) Adjourn

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