



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Information & Technology Services

Bloomington Digital Underground BDUAC Meeting Memorandum

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

Thursday, November 4th, 2021 4PM

Location: Zoom

Facilitator: Rick Dietz

Board Attendance: Mike Allen, Marianne Chitwood, Chris Robb, Mike Sullivan, Mike Trotzke, Time Pritchett

Staff Attendance: Desiree King, Rick Dietz

ITS Administrative Business & Updates

2022 ITS budget: Council approved the near one-million dollar budget for 2022. Federal funds received will support a wireless and wired network update and a VoIP upgrade. Some of the money will go toward consulting for Smart City opportunities. Best budget ITS has had, excited to make these much needed upgrades.

Possible hybrid meeting in December: Rumor that Governor may not extend emergency order that allows for full remote meetings. Rick hopes virtual meetings can be extended until after the new year, but if not, any meetings on or after December 1st will be in person. BDUAC meetings would be held in the McCloskey meeting room at City Hall. Recent Indiana law would allow some members to attend virtually but if a quorum is needed for a vote, the quorum would have to be onsite. This would be rare, the BDUAC usually doesn't need to vote on items. All City Hall meeting rooms are equipped with OWL virtual meeting devices. Rick and Desiree will notify members well in advance if the emergency order ends before the December BDAUC meeting.

Working with contractors JDH and Precision to map BDU in order to deploy wifi in four or more City parks. Will probably be early 2022 before the majority of the hardware arrives and can be installed. On the bright side, the funding is available and this project will eventually happen. Tim: MCCSC is also seeing similar equipment delays.

City-wide Fiber Broadband Update

Discussions continue to move forward. The City is currently under an NDA and a letter of intent has been drafted. The Mayor would like to share a press release on the partnerships soon. Process will be more public after this. Potential partner has a threshold investment minimum that Bloomington alone doesn't meet, so surrounding communities have been pulled in. Some communities have moved forward with a public process and announcements since they will be using federal ARPA funds to fund the partnerships.

We are conducting detailed mapping of our conduit to assist potential partner in assessing options for the network design. We've have had several onsite visits, and it feels promising, but the City has gone through this process several times before, and it could still fall apart.

Tim: Partner already has a prospective ISP? Rick said yes, Joann Hovis with CTC has spoken highly of the potential ISP. Rick: Once we can share more, will be looping in BDUAC, especially on digital equity items. At some point will need to put forth an agreement to use City conduit (if they decide to) before the Board of Public Works.

Digital Equity

Rick: I applied for READI funds through ROI to hire a digital equity navigator. Funds would fund a salary and some other resources needed for the position. The application is still being considered, waiting to hear from the state. Mike T.: READI Presentation will be later this month.

Rick: Had an opportunity to participate in a conversation with FCC commissioner Starks on digital equity and how the FCC might expand emergency broadband initiative. Also discussed not having dedicated digital equity staff, 0% of residents in survey were aware of incumbent provider subsidy programs. Also mentioned residents living in apartment buildings don't have choice of internet service provider.

Member Reports (Items not on the agenda)

- Chris: Nearing update at end of year, thinking about pulling old equipment, looking forward to taking a breather at the end of the year.
- Mike T.: Starting to do planning for Mill event. Hope to do in-person event, will probably happen outside. Excited to get together in person again.
- Mike A.: Finally busy again with trials. Have switched from virtual trials to in-person trials again.
- Marianne: Getting ready to post position for new director for global service desk. Looking for candidate that can review and improve processes. Will be a national search, but will be considering internal candidates.

Meeting Adjourned

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