



# 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, January 13, 2022 4PM**

Location: Zoom

Facilitator: Rick Dietz

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

Staff Attendance: Desiree King, Rick Dietz

### ITS Department Updates

- Currently mapping the BDU with a contractor, project coming to conclusion. Have been getting more accurate information to take to Meridiam and their construction partner going forward.
- Wiring the Waldron Arts Center for interim City staff use, with assistance from Smithville. Center will eventually be conveyed to an arts organization.
- Fiber cut occurred at Monroe Water Treatment Plant. Smithville was able to get fiber up and running after a day.
- Effort underway to implement wifi in several City parks. Extensions will be with Butler, Peoples, and Crestmont. Not so much with 3rd street park as there are already City buildings there. Working with MCCSC to extend connections near Tri-North middle school. Still discussing how extensions will all play out.

### City-wide Fiber Broadband Initiative

Discussions with Meridiam continue to move forward positively. Prior to the holidays, City and Meridiam were working on an agreement. Meridiam has been able to accommodate most of the City's objectives. Still fleshing out a digital equity plan. May finalize an agreement by the end of January and add on the digital equity plan as an addendum.

In addition, a site visit from Meridiam and their construction contractor AEG is planned for next week. They will also be visiting other partnering communities. Will discuss permitting and bonds process. Trying to work out logistics of meeting while maintaining COVID protocols.

Mike Sullivan: Does company primarily operate in Europe. Dietz: Has some infrastructure in the US (roads, bridges, dams) but broadband infrastructure is in Europe. Currently have a networking project in Canada. Meridiam is still working on an agreement with an internet service provider partner.

## **Digital Equity**

ROI grant: Bloomington ROI region has been awarded a REDI grant. Grantor is currently teasing out in the proposal what is fundable. Hoping to fund a temporary Digital Equity Specialist.

## **Member Reports (Items not on the agenda)**

Pritchett: MCCSC is ready to sit down and discuss park wifi logistics whenever the City is ready.

Meeting adjourned

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