



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Information & Technology Services

Memorandum Bloomington Digital Underground Advisory Committee

Bloomington City Hall, 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana
McCloskey Conference Room and on Zoom
Thursday, March 6th, 2025

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER [4:10 pm]

Facilitated by Rick Dietz

ROLL CALL:

Board Members present: Chris Robb, Andy Koop, and Michelle Cole

Board Members present via Zoom: Marianne Chitwood

Board absent: Mike Sullivan, Mike Trotzke, and Mike Allen

City staff, officials, and guests present: Rick Dietz, Victoria Jones, and two online guests

Dietz: Welcomes everyone and begins the meeting with updates.

Information & Technology Services (ITS) Department Updates

- Appointments: Chris Robb and Mike Trotzke are reappointed for two years.
- Public parks Wi-Fi update: The Seminary Park Wi-Fi project is nearing completion.
- Hopewell Development: Work is being done to connect the Hopewell site with fiber and outdoor Wi-Fi. There is a proposal to convert the former Convalescent Center building located on the Hopewell site into the new location for the Bloomington Police Department (BPD). ITS staff have performed some preliminary assessments. One advantage of utilizing this site is its high elevation, which is helpful for relocating the city radio tower.
- Fiber Project Planning: Plans are being made to extend the fiber further south to the City's Animal Shelter, Utilities buildings, and Bloomington Fire Department (BFD).
- Trades District Parking Garage: Steps were taken to provide right-of-entry to Hoosier Fiber Network in the Trades District Parking Garage for tenants to contract for phone and internet services.
- Digital Equity Projects:
 - ITS staff are in the final stages of two rounds of interviews for the Digital Equity Specialist position.
 - We have taken steps to be responsive to requests for updated and additional information by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on the City's Federal Digital Equity grant application. There has been no recent

communication from NIST or the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), and there's still the possibility that the grant will not be funded.

City-Wide Fiber Broadband Initiative

- Rick Dietz presented Hoosier Fiber Network updates.
- Over the last week, Trueline, formerly AEG, ceased all construction work on the Bloomington fiber project. Meridiam is 100% committed to seeing the project completed and has taken steps to move forward with another construction company.
- It is estimated that it will take Meridiam one to two months to select, contract with, and onboard another construction company. This will add a delay to the previous timeline, but it is unknown if the completion will be by the end of 2025.

MEMBER REPORTS (Items not on the agenda)

- Marianne Chitwood commented that Indiana University is working on their network upgrade until spring.
- Chris Robb stated that their new Bloomington office location is complete, and they are waiting on furniture, but expect to be in the new office in the next month or so. Chris continued to note that new federal government mandates have not affected their business, but they are keeping an eye on things while planning for the next three to four years.
- Michelle Cole shared that they finished moving into the new Paragraph offices from the admin building about a month ago. Other businesses are in various stages of moving in. Bereave, one of Paragraph's first startups, was officially launched. Bereave is a benefit employers can offer its employees to help navigate the process of a loss. Paragraph is working on its next startup project, Motion, an athletic department software to help manage all Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) team operations and compliance. They are also looking for their next startup investment, with a few ideas already being looked into. On behalf of the organization, Michelle welcomed the members to tour the new building space and noted they have a ten-person space to host meetings or small group activities. They want to help activate the community aspect of the Trades District by hosting events in that space in the future.
- Andy Koop announced that the Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC) Skyward upgrade is going well. Additionally, Andy is planning for the future by reviewing technology budget areas where they can do more with less funding.

ADJOURNMENT [4:47 pm]

Contact: Rick Dietz / 812-349-3485 / dietzr@bloomington.in.gov

Memorandum prepared by: Victoria Jones