



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMISSION
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 314, Arlington, VA 22201

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMISSION

7:30 PM, Wednesday, December 18, 2013
3rd Floor Conference Room
Courthouse Plaza (2100 Clarendon Blvd.)

MEETING MINUTES

In attendance:

Chair: Joseph Pelton

Vice Chair: Frank Jazzo

ITAC Members Present: Larry Mayer
Sal d'Itri
Anita Nolen
Phil Caughran
Kenneth Cohn
Ben Faatz

Members Not Present: Kevin Robins
Tyler Carlin
Martha Moore
Mary Crannell
Jeanny Shu Ho

County/Schools Staff: Jack Belcher, CIO
Rob Billingsley, Cable Administrator

Cable Company Representatives: Marie Schuler, Comcast
Louise Anderson, Verizon

1. **Meeting called to order by Joe Pelton, ITAC Chair**

7:30 pm; Quorum Present. Meeting Agenda adopted.

2. **Public Comment None**

3. **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:** Minutes of November 2013 meeting was approved with minor correction to list of attendees.

4. **Administrative and Other Issues:**
 - The Chair reminded the attendees that the proceedings were being broadcast to the web, with a link available on the ITAC webpage.
 - At the last County Board meeting, the Chair and Vice Chair of ITAC were re-appointed.
 - The Commission now has a full complement. The Chair mentioned Carlin Tyler as newly appointed member.
 - As an exception to the usual schedule, the Chair requested the next ITAC meeting take place on the fifth Wednesday evening in January in the Azalea Room on the first floor of Courthouse Plaza Building at 2100 Clarendon Blvd. This request was made to accommodate the Chair's travel schedule. The request was accepted without exception.
 - The Cable Administrator showed a draft of the new ITAC webpage which should be "live" by the next monthly meeting in January.
 - The Chair announced that the Civic Federation is considering the use of AIM to broadcast their meetings after discussions regarding the ITAC web broadcasts.
 - The Chair also announced that Arlington County had made it into the "ICF Top 21" communities by the Intelligent Community Foundation, and that the next round of the "ICF Top 7" will be decided in January 2014.

5. **Legislative Updates:** Vice Chair, Frank Jazzo, provided the following:
 - Arlington Independent Radio, a project of Arlington Independent Media, has filed an application with the FCC for a new Low Power FM (LPFM) broadcast station on 96.7 MHz, which is competing with LPFM applications filed for 96.7 MHz at Bethesda and Silver Spring, MD.
 - Verizon has announced that it will no longer provide free batteries for emergency backup on new FiOS installs. Backup batteries may be purchased for about \$30.
 - The FCC adopted a Report and Order specifying new 911 reliability rules. 911 system service providers (SSPs) must conduct annual audits of physical diversity of circuits to each PSAP they serve and of the aggregation points in their

networks. SSPs are also to provide specified levels of “sufficient, reliable backup power.”

- House Commerce Committee passed FCC Process Reform Act, which would streamline FCC decision making.
- Community Access Preservation Act was introduced in the U.S. Senate, which would require cable operators to provide support for public, educational and government (PEG) channels.
- House Commerce Committee leadership has announced their intention to hold hearings over the next two years looking toward modernizing the Communications Act of 1934.
- Faster storage area networks (SANs) are on the horizon as the next Fibre Channel specification, calling for 32 Gbps, nears publication.
- Verizon announced that it does not intend to expand the geographic footprint of its FiOS service, but rather it intends to increase its market penetration within its existing footprint. Verizon now has 5.2 million FiOS TV and 5.9 million FiOS Internet subscribers.

6. Cable Administrator’s Report (Mr. Billingsley) Cable Television Updates

- Status of Verizon implementation for MDUs and for County and School Buildings – With the change of Government Liaison from Linc Janus in Chicago to Louise Anderson at the Verizon Office in Arlington, Ms. Anderson is getting oriented to several reporting processes. Hopefully, the County will have the required updated data by the next ITAC meeting.
- Quarterly report on Cable TV Service – The Cable Administrator hopes to have all the necessary data from both Verizon and Comcast, as well as County records to make this report at the next ITAC meeting.
- New developments re Comcast Franchise—There is nothing new to report except that the County Board approved an extension of the agreement to December 31, 2013 at their December meeting. County and Comcast continue exchange of information and meetings.
- Ms. Anderson explained changes in the Verizon organization to provide more localized attention to franchise jurisdiction. The Chair mentioned that a letter from ITAC to Verizon in the past asked for more local representation, and welcome the change.

7. Initiatives Stemming from Interchanges with Dublin, Ohio, Riverside, CA, and Stockholm, Sweden (Pelton and Caughran)

- ITAC had a good interchange of information at the last ITAC meeting with Dublin, OH and Riverside, CA, both recognized by the Intelligent Community Forum, regarding setting up and applying high speed broadband. The ITAC hopes to learn what arrangements and business models available to Arlington as it goes forward.
- ITAC hopes to have an additional such interchange with Stockholm, Sweden for similar purposes in 2014.

8. ConnectArlington Status and Telecommunications Master Plan (Billingsley)

- The Cable Administrator provided details about ConnectArlington's first stage of 50 County and Arlington Public School sites that are in various stages of completion. At this point, 36 of 50 sites are connected to their endpoint buildings. The remaining 14 sites are in various stages of completion –preparing for construction, obtaining permits, or under actual construction. Some sites are still in other stages of development and testing. Approximately 48 of the 50 sites should be completed in early Winter 2014. This represents about 28 miles of the final total of nearly 50 miles when all sites are eventually connected.
- As sites are connected, the network communications are cut over and made operational.
- The CIO stated that in recent article he saw that on the average day most of us hear or read 65,000 words. The County is one of the first entrants into using Office 365 across the enterprise, and is now migrating to that platform. Hopefully, this will be the first step to have a more direct connection not only internally, but also between staff and residents.

9. Legislative update regarding Fiber systems in Virginia

- While the Chair had intended to present findings about what Virginia allows communities to do with telecommunications, but is now expanding his research to other states and their experience. After discussing this with Jay Fisette, there was some possibility raised that Arlington might be able to get some relief from the regulatory limitations from the State Legislature to allow extending ConnectArlington to other major institutions, such as Virginia Hospital Center and the local Universities.

10. Status of Joint Working Group on IT Services with the Schools

- The Chair reviewed the several items discussed at the meeting to include: virtual high schools to save tax dollars, and other advanced programs for high school students through local higher education resources.

- The Chair suggested that the Legislative Session may afford some opportunity to pursue the joint goals of the County and Schools.

11. Discussion of a future program for ITAC on business services by carriers in Arlington

- Verizon and Comcast agreed make presentations on what services are available to businesses in Arlington, VA. Comcast will present at the January 2014 ITAC meeting, and Verizon will present at the February 2014 meetings. Other service providers may follow.
- The Cable Administrator agreed to coordinate with the companies on these presentations.

12. Adjournment: 8:30 pm