

MEETING MINUTES

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMISSION

(ITAC)

January 25th, 2017

7:30 pm

Arlington County Courthouse Building

Room 311

2100 Clarendon Boulevard

Arlington, VA

In attendance:

Chair: Frank Jazzo

ITAC Members Present: Mary Crannell, Vice Chair (On Phone)

Phil Caughran
Kenneth Cohn
William Lang
Dan Laredo
Martha Moore
Anita Nolen
Kevin Robins

Members Not Present: Ben Faatz
Joshua Farrar
David Husband
Robert James Schill

County Staff: Jack Belcher, CIO
Lou Michael, Chief Network Architect
George Parr, Cable Administrator

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

1. Meeting Called to Order and Adoption of Agenda - Adopted following vote

2. Public Comment

- Discussion regarding Verizon's changing e-mail policy. Verizon is getting out of the business of offering e-mail service and is encouraging its customers to open e-mail accounts with either AOL or Yahoo.
- Discussion regarding Comcast services offered by partners that are "resellers" of packaged services. Comcast's Marie Schuler said this is commonplace in the market.
- Discussion regarding monthly use of Room 311 for all scheduled 2017 ITAC meetings, which was confirmed

3. Approval of Minutes of November 2016 Meeting – Approved. Minutes from December 5th Public Hearing on the Comcast Franchise Agreement will be submitted for approval, along with minutes from the January 25th meeting at ITAC's February 22nd meeting.

4. Administrative and Other Issues:

- Two ITAC Board positions are vacant. Applications are being vetted. Invitations to the February ITAC meeting will be sent to applicants.
- Chairman Frank Jazzo reported he met with County Board Member Libby Garvey and invited her to the next ITAC meeting. She will be attending DTS's Digital Destiny on February 15th.
- Discussion took place regarding APS's RFP for the creation of a fiber optic network of their own. DTS CIO Jack Belcher said he was surprised to learn of the RFP as DTS and APS staff meet weekly and DTS provides APS with written project updates. Still, APS made no mention of their intention. He said he could only speculate why APS did so. In his words, he thinks APS lacks faith in ConnectArlington's resiliency. Several board members said it is ITAC's duty to bring the matter to the attention of the County Board (the CMO is aware of the RFP). The ITAC Board then proposed and approved the following resolution, which was submitted to the County Board on Friday, January 27th.

"Whereas it is the understanding of the ITAC that the ConnectArlington initiative is a multi-year project engineered to provide state-of-the-art high capacity redundant fiber optic connectivity for all County services, including operations, public safety and schools (APS).

APS was invited to the ITAC January 25, 2017 meeting to give us an understanding of why APS believes that ConnectArlington will provide inadequate resiliency and or capacity for educational purposes and has therefore used an RFP for construction of a potentially duplicative network to ConnectArlington. Therefore, ITAC requests that the County Board request that the Superintendent of Schools provide the Board and ITAC with a detailed briefing of the reasoning behind the planned RFP." It was also communicated to the County Board that

should APS rescind the RFP before the ITAC February meeting, such a detailed briefing would not be necessary.”

- Lou Michael, DTS Chief Architect and lead designer of ConnectArlington, gave a presentation to ITAC about the network. He said construction is on schedule, which APS knows, and this robust system is redundant, secure and resilient.
- When Frank Jazzo discussed APS’s RFP with Libby Garvey, she recommended that he reconvene the ACG/APS Joint Working Group to express concern.
- Discussion turned to PEG funding and Arlington Independent Media’s (AIM) budgetary challenges brought on by the new Comcast Franchise Agreement. Internal meetings have been taking place between County staff and the three PEG’s in order to gather information that will be used to create the CMO’s budget recommendations to the County Board. These recommendations will be presented to the Board and made public on Friday, February 24th. Following this presentation, Arlington residents, including ITAC members, will have the opportunity to comment on the budget recommendations at a series of scheduled public hearings.
- There was discussion about what role ITAC has in overseeing the budget of such groups as AIM. It was suggested that ITAC’s Charter, which was approved by the County Board in January, 2015, be discussed and possibly revised at a future ITAC meeting.

5. Regulatory & Legislative Update (Frank Jazzo)

- FCC’s new chairman is Ajit Pai, a resident of Arlington County. One of his top priorities is closing the digital divide.
- There are two FCC board vacancies that will be filled.
- In the Senate Commerce Committee, there has been a recent flurry of activity as voice votes on the “Senior Fraud Act”, “Mobile Now”, “Digital Act” and “Sandy Act” were taken.
- On the state level, “The Byron Act” or “Virginia Broadband Deployment Act” was introduced in the House of Delegates. The law if passed would restrict localities from providing lit services. Arlington County offers dark fiber so the law would not apply to ACG. According to one industry news source, the Governor will veto it if passed.
- There is an aggressive push by private industry, led by Sprint, to streamline the process for deployment of small cell infrastructure. If passed, Virginia localities would lose much of its regulatory authority over the placement of very tall poles used for 5G services.
- The FCC published a notice of inquiry into internet cyber security and privacy that focuses on CIA Principles (Confidentiality, Integrity and Availability). Comment period is from April 24 to May 23.

- The FCC approved a five prong voluntary wireless network resiliency cooperative framework by the wireless industry in response to the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.
- Verizon and Google are looking at fixed wireless as a means of providing last mile connections in dense urban areas.
- On January 17th, the FCC issued a White Paper on "Improving the Nation's Digital Infrastructure". (The document was later recalled).
- During the new Administration, the FCC's emphasis will be building the Nation's digital infrastructure.

6. Cable Administrator's Report

- The Comcast Franchise Agreement has been signed by Comcast but two outstanding documents must be obtained by the County from Comcast before the documents can be presented to the Board for full execution. Until then, the new Agreement is not in effect. The two required documents are a new Letter of Credit and an Insurance Certificate.
- Jack Belcher discussed upcoming Part Two of "Arlington's Digital Destiny" presentation that will be held Wednesday evening, February 15th.

7. Good of the Order

8. Adjournment - 9:17 pm