

## MEETING MINUTES

Information Technology Advisory Commission  
(ITAC)

Wednesday 7:30 pm

December 20th, 2017

Arlington County Courthouse Building

Room 311

Arlington County, VA 22201

In attendance:

Chair: Frank Jazzo  
ITAC Members Present: Mary Crannell, Vice Chair  
Phil Caughran  
Joshua Farrar (via phone)  
Dr. Denise Haskins  
David Husband  
William Lang  
Dan Laredo  
Martha Moore  
Anita Nolen  
Kevin Robins

Excused: Patrick South

Others present:

Jack Belcher, DTS CIO  
George Parr, DTS Staff Liaison  
Jackie Snelling, EPAC  
Louise Anderson, Verizon  
Deborah Elkinton, Resident  
Alex Srisuwan, Resident  
John Fitzgerald, Resident

1. Meeting Called to Order - A quorum was present
2. Public Comment

Arlington resident Deborah Elkinton asked to speak regarding her frustration with her inability to get Verizon Fios service. Her single-family residence receives Verizon DSL, which she said is sporadic and often requires service. Ms. Elkinton complained that she had not gotten anywhere with Verizon in her attempts to upgrade her service and she came to the ITAC meeting to complain.

Louise Anderson, Verizon’s liaison to ITAC, stated that a multitude of reasons could explain why Verizon had not brought Fios to her street and residence.

Ms. Anderson said that the lack of an easement that would provide Verizon access is often to blame or the topography itself. She asked for Ms. Elkinton’s contact information and said she would investigate the matter before getting back to her. (Update: Ms. Anderson reported the Glen Carlyn address has been door tagged, and Verizon engineering is going out there on January 19 to see if there’s another path to feed it.)

Alex Srisuwan, a resident of an apartment building on North Quincy Street, read about the digital inclusion project for Arlington Mill and asked if the same thing could be done for his building (provide broadband service via the County’s network). He was told that Arlington County is prohibited from providing lit services directly to residential properties in Arlington, though an ISP could by licensing the County’s dark fiber.

Currently Mr. Srisuwan’s building only offers tenants Comcast service. It was explained that often landlords/property management companies sign agreements with cable/internet service providers granting them exclusive rights to market their product to tenants. In doing so, tenants are denied a choice. Louise Anderson said she would inquire why Verizon doesn’t provide service to this building. She said that typically Verizon reps make several attempts to contact the landlord/management regarding bringing service to the building when it first becomes available but move on when there is no response.

3. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings (October 25<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>)
  - October 25<sup>th</sup> – approved
  - November 15<sup>th</sup> – approved (no quorum at meeting)
4. Cable Administrator’s Report (George Parr)
  - AIM - On December 8th, Director Paul LeValley requested a meeting with County Manager Mark Schwartz to request rent support or a rent-free facility from the County beginning in 2019.

Mr. LeValley asked that the source of funds for the rent support (\$250,000) come from the PEG funds that are paid annually to the County by its two cable franchisees: Comcast and Verizon. Prior to this meeting Mr. LeValley had made this same request but the County Attorney ruled that PEG funds can only be used for capital expenditures and not operating

expenses. Since then Mr. LeValley discovered an opinion written by a CPA in New Mexico that states a lease for real property of ten years or more can be capitalized and therefore regarded as a capital expense.

A draft of the document that Mr. LeValley produced at the meeting was sent to the County Attorney's office for further consideration. (PEG channels are now required to annually present a budget to County staff for capital expenses). The revenue collected from the franchise fees paid by Comcast and Verizon go to the County's general fund while PEG funds are kept separate.

Note: Comcast will pay AIM's rent through December 2017 while the County has committed to pay \$110,000 towards AIM's rent for the first half of 2018. CIO Jack Belcher said the County Board is not inclined to pay AIM's rent beyond this fiscal year.

In the meantime, the building that AIM currently occupies is in the process of being sold and is scheduled to settle at the end of January. The prospective owner, Bill Buck, has responded to Mr. LeValley's requests to meet by suggesting they meet once the sale is complete.

Finally, Mr. LeValley said he met with staff from Cultural Affairs about the possibility of a County operated black box theater being built above AIM's studio.

- ATV - HD Channel Update - Per the Franchise License Agreement between Comcast and Arlington County, on March 18 ATV is slated to begin High Definition (HD) broadcasts on Comcast. ATV will continue its Standard Definition (SD) broadcast on Channel 25 but will return SD Channel 74 to Comcast.
- A question was asked about Verizon's negotiations with its channels and the resulting blackouts when agreements could not be reached (i.e. Univision and Bloomberg). Verizon's Louise Anderson said that Verizon's web site lists each channel currently up for renewal.

5. DTS CIO Report (Jack Belcher)

- Digital Inclusion Update - CIO Jack Belcher reported that the County Board approved the Digital Inclusion initiative the night before and that ITAC Chair Frank Jazzo and Vice Chair Mary Crannell spoke in support of it.

Mr. Belcher said that with the installation of broadband service at Arlington Mill, students who live there will have free access to gigabit service instead of the low speed Wi Fi APS provides its students who need but whose families cannot afford the monthly cost for broadband service that runs \$40 to \$50 per month.

APAH, owners of Arlington Mill's affordable housing, will license the County's dark fiber and they in turn will work with two companies to provide the WAPs and the lit service. Virginia Tech will provide the back haul out to Ashburn. (A full description of the initiative written by project manager Joe Webster and presented at ITAC's October 25th meeting was included in its minutes, which were approved at the ITAC December meeting).

Regarding metrics measuring the success of this program, Mr. Belcher said providing a device and broadband access doesn't ensure a student's success and collecting related data and analyzing it would be difficult at best. He said APS would be reluctant to share such information as their students' privacy is a primary concern.

- November Digital Destiny – The program focused on energy, sustainability and what the future will look like. The presentation was well attended and had many hits from social media.
- PAWR Update – Virginia Tech will be resubmitting its application next September and were encouraged by NSF to do so.
- Connect Arlington – The question was asked about what Economic Development was doing to market Connect Arlington dark fiber. Mr. Jazzo said that he and Ms. Crannell asked the EDC to come back and report on any progress, maybe at ITAC's February meeting. Mr. Belcher

- added that the business model that Connect Arlington has been operating under doesn't work. "We've created too many obstacles. The role of government should be to provide a platform and get out of the way," said Mr. Belcher. He added the CMO has asked him to consider options, one of which Mr. Belcher described as "permissionless innovation" – a theory that when applied would mean all barriers that have prevented access to the excess fiber network would be removed.

#### 6. Administrative and Other Issues:

- Report on Libby Garvey's Meeting with Advisory Commissions (Frank Jazzo/Mary Crannell) – Mr. Jazzo and Ms. Crannell recently attended via a request by Board Member Libby Garvey, a special meeting of representatives from Commissions for which she serves as Board liaison.

Ms. Crannell said that Ms. Garvey was excited to hear that Dr. Sokwoo Rhee (see below) would be making a presentation at ITAC's January meeting and has it on her calendar to attend. Ms. Crannell noted Ms. Garvey is very interested in Smart Cities and what Arlington can do to leverage its 59 miles of dark fiber network it put in the ground.

Other Commissions represented at the meeting were Economic Development (EDC), Emergency Preparedness (EPAC) and Community Development Citizens Advisory (CDCAC).

- Upcoming ITAC Meetings –

January 24 – Dr. Sokwoo Rhee - Dr. Rhee is Associate Director of Cyber-Physical Systems Program at National Institute of Standards and Technology, covering Internet of Things (IoT) and Smart Cities strategy and standard/technology development. He manages Global City Teams Challenge (GCTC), a US federal government program.

In response to Mr. Jazzo's request for ideas for upcoming meetings the following suggestions were made:

Begin programming guest speakers every other ITAC meeting that featuring leaders from the technology sector. Promote these meetings to attract large turnouts.

Meet with APS (Mr. Belcher to meet quarterly with Raj Adusumilli APS CIO instead and report at subsequent ITAC meeting)

Meet with Economic Development Commission (EDC) – discussion topic: Connect Arlington (Maybe February)

Meet with Virginia Tech – discussion topic: PAWR (Maybe March or April)

Meet with Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission (EPAC) regarding Cyber Security. DTS Security Chief David Jordan featured speaker. Former ITAC Chair Joe Pelton is another industry expert who could speak about Cyber Security

- Verizon Update – Fios will soon be made available to two small HOA’s (The Green and Commons) bringing the number of units in South Fairlington served by Fios to 1338. Because Fairlington Court (10 units) never signed an agreement with Verizon, they will not be getting service. Work on The Villages, Fairlington largest HOA with 1700 units, will begin in 2018.
- Comcast Update – To begin broadcasting ATV in HD on March 18<sup>th</sup> (see Cable Administrator’s report)

#### 7. Regulatory & Legislative Update (Frank Jazzo)

- The FCC approved a decision to speed up and streamline the deployment of fiber networks.
- The FCC approved an Order to accelerate wireline broadband deployment by removing barriers to infrastructure investment, including establishing a 180-day shot clock for resolution of pole attachment access complaints.
- The FCC approved an Order that would eliminate the requirement for historic preservation review when utility poles are replaced with substantially identical poles that can support antennas and other wireless communications equipment.
- The FCC rolled back Title II common carrier regulation of Internet Service Providers (ISPs), commonly called “Net Neutrality” rules, and restored Title I “information services” treatment of Internet services.

- Congresswoman Blackburn introduced the Open Internet Preservation Act, which would prohibit blocking and throttling and preempts state net neutrality regulations.
- Verizon opened 5G-enabled innovation lab in NY's Silicon Alley.
- T-Mobile is buying IP TV provider Layer3.
- FTC and FCC signed MOU on online consumer protection enforcement.
- FCC approved an Order to facilitate deployment of 5G wireless services above 24 GHz.
- FCC approved new rules to protect consumers from unwanted robocalls.
- FCC reformed Lifeline program for low income families.

#### 8. Good of the Order

Josh Farrar, who is very concerned about the loss of Net Neutrality and its potential impact on the software his company produces and other applications such as Facebook, Linked In, etc., called from Mexico to ask the Verizon and Comcast liaisons what assurances could they give to the public that they will continue to have the same level of access to high speed broadband service that they have up till now come to expect and rely upon. Verizon's Louise Anderson said she was not the person in her company to answer that question and Comcast's Marie Schuler was out of town and thus not present to answer.

Mr. Farrar said that he hopes that communities such as Arlington step up to provide broadband service as an alternative to commercial service providers. Mr. Farrar said such a publicly owned network would assure the public fast and easy access to the internet. Mr. Jazzo suggested that an upcoming ITAC meeting be devoted to the issue.

Earlier in the meeting a question was asked about the status of ITAC's recommendation for the repeal of the Dillon Rule by the General Assembly, which would clear the way for Arlington County to offer lit services on its fiber optic network to its residents and businesses. Staff will provide update at next ITAC meeting.

#### 9. Adjournment