

MEETING MINUTES
Information Technology Advisory Commission
(ITAC)
Wednesday 7:30 pm
March 28th, 2018
Arlington County Courthouse Building
Room 311
Arlington County, VA 22201

In attendance:

Chair: Frank Jazzo

ITAC Members Present: Mike Carleton
Phil Caughran
David Husband
Dan Laredo
Martha Moore
Anita Nolen

Not Present: Mary Crannell, Vice Chair
Josh Farrar
Dr. Denise Haskins
Dr. William Lang
Kevin Robins
Patrick South

Others present: George Parr, DTS Staff Liaison
Louise Anderson, Verizon
Marie Schuler, Comcast

1. Meeting Called to Order - A quorum was present at 7:30 pm
2. Public Comment - None
3. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting (February 28, 2018) -
The draft agenda for this meeting and the draft minutes from the prior meeting were approved without comment.
4. DTS CIO Report
None - Jack Belcher was out of town attending the Smart Cities Connect Conference and Expo

5. Cable Administrator's Report (George Parr)

- Arlington Independent Media (AIM) Update – During the County Board FY 19 budget workshop with DTS on March 19th, Board members asked questions about AIM's ability to raise funds to offset the loss of revenue proposed in the County Manager's budget. They also wanted to know the level of support neighboring jurisdictions provide for their respective public access channels. Staff has been charged with researching both questions. The Board will vote to approve the proposed budget in late April. The Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget April 3.
- The County Board is also considering a proposal by AIM executive director Paul LeValley that would consolidate AIM and Arlington TV, the County's Government channel. Details of Mr. LeValley's proposed were not shared with staff. It's uncertain what the Board's position is on AIM's funding and future. Note: consolidation of PEG channels was formally studied in 2011.
- In response to the question: Should ITAC be an advocate for AIM, it was noted that the Board is faced with making a budget decision and not one regarding technology. Therefore, AIM's protest of having its budget cut by 20% is not a matter on which ITAC should be advising the Board.
- Regarding AIM's role in providing vocational training, the question was asked: could that function be provided elsewhere? One possibility mentioned involved moving AIM to the Career Center space that is being vacated by Arlington Public Schools (APS) in favor of its new school board broadcast studio at Sequoia. It was pointed out that APS is already overcrowded and that space would likely be filled or the facility demolished to make way for a large APS facility. It was also said that when asked, APS has not expressed any interest in consolidating with either ATV or AIM.
- The County Attorney's office never responded to a letter drafted by Paul LeValley that argues that a lease of 10 years or more can be capitalized and thus considered a capital expense and eligible to received PEG grant funds. Legislation was introduced and soon died in Congress more than ten years ago that would permit public access channels to use PEG funds to pay rent. Other bills aimed at the same outcome were introduced in 2011 and 2014 but also quietly died.
AIM is now faced with paying rent to Comcast, who provided them space rent free for many years.

- At ITAC's February meeting, the question was asked: what happened to the suggestion ITAC made to the Board following the latter's request for legislation to be introduced in Virginia's General Assembly that would loosen restrictions on municipal broadband networks. The answer, according to the County's state legislative liaison Patricia Carroll, was nothing due to the new administration and such pressing issues as funding WMATA (Metro). In another e-mail, she wrote that a coalition would need to be formed in order to introduce legislation that would allow municipalities to offer lit broadband services to the private sector. She added forming such a coalition would take time to which ITAC commissioner David Husband responded that if the Board wants its commissions to recommend legislation, they need to do it well in advance of the opening of each state legislative session. Chair Frank Jazzo said he would bring the matter up with Board member Libby Garvey when she meets with her commissions in April.
- General discussion regarding broadband fiber followed. It was said the biggest obstacles to building a fiber network for the County are legal and regulatory while the high cost of building a network was said to be another major obstacle. Arlington made this investment by building its own network but it's prevented from providing lit services to the private sector due to regulatory constraints. Chair Jazzo said the biggest push for municipal broadband fiber has been where there is no service provider. Because Arlington has two providers (Verizon and Comcast), he said Arlington would have a hard time making a case here for a municipally run broadband network.
- The County Manager appointed a committee to study ConnectArlington, the County's broadband fiber network, and make recommendations regarding its future. ITAC Vice Chair Mary Crannell was appointed to the committee. Once the committee submits its report to the CMO and makes it public, which should be soon, Ms. Crannell will present its findings and recommendations to ITAC.
- A question was asked regarding Economic Development's role in marketing the County's excess fiber network to the private sector. The response was that AED had abolished the staff position charged with marketing ConnectArlington in the proposed FY 19 budget, effectively relieving itself of any involvement in the project.

- A question was asked about Arlington Public Schools' (APS) use of the County's broadband network, which it was suggested should be showcased. The response was that APS is making robust use of the network as it transitions from INET to the County's network. There have been challenges in turning over INET to Comcast as APS must work around schools' testing schedules while APS has limited resources when it comes to committing manpower to the changeover. CIO Jack Belcher, who was not in available to comment due to his attendance at a conference out of town, will update ITAC at the April meeting.

6. Administrative and Other Issues:

- The chair and vice chair of each Arlington County commission have been invited to meet with Board Chair Katie Cristol and Board Member John Vistadt. Topics on the meeting agenda to be discussed are:
 1. Elicit recommendations and feedback on proposals to improve Commission issues such as recruitment, orientation, training, and organization, as well as provide an open forum on these issues
 2. Share successes and ideas on Commissions' roles in engaging the broader Arlington community
 3. Introduce, and invite Commission Chair partnership on, "big idea" roundtables

A request was made to ask about the process for recommending legislation to the Board.

- The meeting originally scheduled for March 15 by Board Member Libby Garvey that was postponed due snow will be rescheduled for mid-April. All members of the commissions that Ms. Garvey acts as Board liaison to are invited. An updated e-vite will be sent to each ITAC member.
- Discussion followed regarding the relationship between the County Board and ITAC. It was suggested that an acknowledged process should exist whereby they can ask ITAC to do things or delegate tasks to the CIO who could then delegate to ITAC. Added to that was the comment that ITAC has expertise in areas the Board does not. Chair Jazzo said that he and Vice Chair Mary Crannell have regular communication with Ms. Garvey.
- Regarding ITAC meetings, it said that members should be able to ask questions and discuss topics that are relevant and of concern to Arlington; i.e. the recent ransomware attack in Atlanta. An exchange followed regarding how ITAC goes about discussing sensitive security issues in a public forum. Chair Jazzo said he would discuss with Libby Garvey. Maybe the answer is to have a closed executive session.

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7. Verizon Update – Construction has come to an end in South Fairlington. Construction in North Fairlington is taking place. Cable Administrator reviewed Verizon’s build out and service map of Arlington County with Verizon’s Louise Anderson following March ITAC meeting.

8. Comcast Update – Comcast Marie Schuler said that due to Comcast’s robust communications plan, complaints are virtually nonexistent. In Arlington, most are related to construction of their expanded and upgraded network, which is to be completed in 2019.

9. Regulatory and Legislative Update (Frank Jazzo)

- The FCC will hold a workshop on April 13 to identify critical information needs to improve communications during disasters.
- The Virginia House agreed to wireless zoning bills that would expand on last year’s small-cells law.
- President Trump has extended the cyber attack national emergency.
- AT&T launches FirstNet evolved packet core network giving first responders early access to FirstNet capabilities.
- The National Capital Region will test the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system on April 5.
- The FCC will consider a proposed rulemaking to bar use of Universal Service Fund (USF) monies to purchase equipment or services from companies that pose a national security threat to U.S. telecom networks or supply chain.
- The FCC adopted rules to clarify that the deployment of small wireless facilities does not require historic preservation and environmental reviews.
- The FCC seeks comments on proposals to address the issue of unwanted phone calls to reassigned phone numbers.
- The FCC has launched an examination of location-based routing of wireless 911 calls as a means of ensuring that calls are routed to the proper 911 call center.

10. Good of the Order

11. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

