

City of Alexandria, Virginia
Commission on Information Technology

February 16, 2023 IT Commission Meeting Minutes
7:00 – 8:30 PM
City Hall Room 2000

In attendance: Ricardo Alfaro (RA), Sara Crifasi (SC), Catharine Rice (CR), Steve Davidson (SD), Timothy Casey (TC), Jay Chauhan (JC), Brandon Mosoriak (BM)

City Staff: Stacey Campbell, Dana Wedeles, Steve Chozick, Yemisrach Demeke

Others: Donna Walker James (Computer CORE)

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of January 19, 2023 Minutes:** Unanimous approval of modified minutes (motion by SD, seconded by SC).
- 3. Announcements, Meeting Schedule and Projects**
 - (a) Meeting Calendar**
 - Meeting dates confirmed through May 2023
 - (b) Public Outreach during January 2023**
 - Ricardo Alfaro was invited to be a HackBI judge at Bishop Ireton. It was a great experience to see the ideas and talent on display.
- 4. Digital Equity**
 - (a) Digital Equity Action Plan Focus Group recap**
 - CR: Attended the ‘senior’ focus group. We need competition, prices aren’t affordable. To things for the City to do: free service in public buildings, including parks. More to be done for immigrants for computer training. Generally, everyone was savvy re: the internet. There were concerns around cybersecurity for seniors.
 - Dana Wedeles attended two focus groups. Cybersecurity as a concern. Some come to City Hall for transactions because they don’t feel safe putting their PII on the internet. Some attendees didn’t know about Comcast Essentials.
 - RA: Attended the Spanish focus group. Some similarities to the other focus groups by two themes came across. Comcast Essentials isn’t very reliable and there is poor customer service. Digital Literacy: They need to gain proficiency on the usage of tech.
 - (b) Proposed next steps beyond the Digital Equity Plan**
 - RA: Action items from the Digital Equity Plan will not be the end, but will be the start of an ongoing process.
 - Dana Wedeles: All of the recommendations will require funding: grants, federal funding, partnerships. Please keep your eyes open for opportunities.
- 5. Open Data**

- Proposal for a City Council resolution re: Open Data was discussed.
- Edits were made to the draft and will be send around.
- Discussion around user registration, if it's needed.
- Discussion around tokenization to stop data mining.
- SM has reached out to other local governments re: their Open Data initiatives, hasn't received any feedback.

6. City Council Referrals

- None at this time.

7. City Deliverables

- None at this time.

8. Other Business

(a) Public hearing of issues regarding the construction of the Verizon Fiber Optic Service (FiOS) in the City of Alexandria

- SC: Verizon is beginning to dig for FiOS. They are supposed to come back and fix things if they work during winter.
- Verizon is obligated to hold public meetings as part of their franchise agreement.
- Vote to reach out to TES and Verizon for a public meeting to discuss this work. Motion by SD, seconded by SC. Vote is unanimous.

(b) Response from the City on Executive Order #24 from Governor Youngkin

- Steve Chozick: The City is looking into this order and to see how we could address this order if the City decides to follow it.
- TC: Is the City looking at other companies beyond what's in the order? Steve Chozick: if you're aware of any please forward to City IT.
- SC: Does the City have a BYOD policy? Steve Chozick, no, staff should be using City-issued devices.

(c) Former ACPS vendor data leak response

- Will be discussed at March meeting.

Adjourn by unanimous vote at 8:45 pm (motion by TC, seconded by SC). The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2023.