

City of Alexandria, Virginia
Commission on Information Technology

Minutes

June 4, 2018 IT Commission Meeting
(rescheduled May 14 meeting)
Room 1101a, City Hall

In attendance: Chris Soghoian, Catharine Rice, David Baker, Ed Ward, Forest Wilhoit, Ricardo Alfaro, Chris Lewis, Marjorie Conner, Sean Rough

Absent: Darrlynn Franklin, Brandon Mozoriak, John Szczech.

1. **Welcome -- introductions**
2. **Call to Order/Roll Call/ Approval of March 12, 2018 Minutes** - Minutes unanimously approved
3. **Update from Homework Gap Committee - (Chair: Christopher Lewis)**
APSC excited to hear about strong support from Chamber for fundraising idea for community to contribute to purchase of more wifi devices; APSC is now working on establishing a portal for fundraising.
4. **Council Draft Resolution on Net Neutrality (CatharineRice/Chris Lewis)**
Resolution discussed. 30 minute conversation. Discussion included:
that FCC's repeal of net neutrality will create single company, economic & political gatekeepers in an economy now dependent on the internet. 75% of communities in nation have only one provider of 25/3Mbps (FCC data). That includes Alexandria. Competition offered as one answer, but competition alone not enough. Documented cases of net neutrality violations, including of cell industry where there is competition, but still blocking apps and data capping. Competition among supporters of Net Neutrality more of a move forward. Companies can't self-regulate. Too much at stake. Characterization that resolution is good but that it is just window dressing. No teeth. Can the City do more? Also debate about regulatory solutions versus federal law solutions. Support the principles, chose not to edit grammar or wording. Motion by Chris Soghoian, seconded by Chris Lewis: "The IT Commission endorses the principles that the resolutions lays out." Vote taken. 8 in favor, 1 against, Motion passed. Catharine Rice will inform city staff and council of result and will present at a future council meeting.
5. **Briefing on broadband progress –(Smail Farid, City of Alexandria)**
Smail Farid updated the Commission on progress of the fiber build. Construction hopefully to begin by August 2019. Some conduit has already been layed concurrent with ITS smart traffic system. IT Commission could assist project by educating public on the process at the appropriate time. IT Commission will encourage expeditious progress.
6. **Update from Future Workforce Skills Committee -Video (Chair: Catharine)**
Nothing to report. Ricardo Alfaro joined the subcommittee
7. **Other Business**
Announcement that former IT Commission Chair Phil Acosta awarded 40 under 40 title, along with Ricardo Alfaro.
8. **Adjourn**
Meeting adjourned at 8:30 by unanimous vote.