



CITY OF FULLERTON
TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP
MEETING MINUTES
December 10, 2009
9:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Burtner called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Roger Burtner, Chair
Fred Canfield
Mike Carter
Larry Iboshi

Sam Ricchio
Thad Sandford
Ed Smith

Helen Hall and Madusha Palliyage arrived after roll call.

Members Absent

Harry Lamberth
Carl Samantello

Sujay Shah
Paul Stover, Vice Chair

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Burtner asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the October 29 meeting. With no corrections, Thad Sandford moved approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Larry Iboshi, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Creation of an educational/municipal (institutional) fiber/wireless network, FullertonNet

Chair Burtner noted that Assistant to the City Manager Rob Ferrier was not in attendance and, therefore, no update could be provided on the status of the ISMS proposal. He reminded the group that he (Burtner) and Thad Sandford had met with Mayor Bankhead, who indicated he (Bankhead) would share the proposal with the other Council Members and the City Manager. Mr. Ferrier's status report at the last TWG meeting was that the proposal was being reviewed by the City's legal counsel, Rutan & Tucker.

2. General Plan and TWG contribution – Zelinka

Chair Burtner noted that Fullerton Planning Manager Al Zelinka was not in attendance, therefore, discussion of the TWG's input to the General Plan was postponed. Chair Burtner stated that he had provided Mr. Zelinka with a list of applications and recommendations for inclusion in the General Plan. After Mr. Zelinka's review of the TWG's input, Mr. Zelinka will let the TWG know if he needs additional input or assistance.

Mr. Ricchio indicated it would be important to infuse as much technology language into the General Plan as possible. Currently he is working with a group of teachers from the Fullerton Elementary School District to help align the district's goals with that of the General Plan's. He noted that he had spoken with Senior Planner Bob St. Paul who is working on putting together a team of representatives from Fullerton educational institutions for a workgroup to coordinate efforts on the General Plan input regarding education.

3. Telecommunications Master Plan – Lamberth

Mr. Lamberth was not in attendance, but Chair Burtner noted that Mr. Lamberth had proposed a workshop on voiceover IP (VOIP) for City staff, and asked Ms. Hall if there was any interest.

Ms. Hall indicated the reason the City has not moved to VOIP is simply a matter of cost. She noted that currently City departments are focused on significant budget reductions, and there are little or no funds available for projects such as VOIP.

Chair Burtner commented that it was his and Mr. Lamberth's understanding that once the VOIP equipment was installed, the City could realize significant cost savings downstream. Mr. Sandford suggested that someone from the City's finance department might help Ms. Hall put together a presentation to City management of the cost saving opportunities provided by VOIP, as well as putting the argument for VOIP in the right financial context. Larry Iboshi noted there are companies that are familiar with the budget constraints of cities and might be able to put together financing packages for the VOIP equipment (considering the cost of money is so low currently) that would allow the costs to be amortized.

Chair Burtner suggested that he would put together a VOIP committee with regards to setting up the workshop, and would coordinate timing and scheduling with Ms. Hall. Ms. Hall agreed.

With regard to the Telecommunications Master Plan, Chair Burtner commented that Mr. Zelinka, at the last TWG meeting, had indicated the plan is something he definitely wants to accomplish, and would see that a consultant was hired at some point, and the TWG would be involved in that selection and master plan development process.

4. Future of the TWG

Chair Burtner asked the TWG members for their input on the future direction of the TWG, noting that considering Fullerton is unlikely to receive stimulus money for development of the I-Net, he believes the TWG's work may have gone as far as it can at this point. He pointed out that Mr. Zelinka, however, had indicated the need for the TWG's involvement in development of the Telecommunications Master Plan, as well as the City's General Plan.

Mr. Carter suggested there is a big push for "greenness" and energy efficiency, which will involve considerable technology, such as smart power grids, etc., and that may be an area the TWG could pursue on behalf of the City.

Ms. Hall stated that it essentially goes back to the issue of funding, noting that the TWG has presented ideas and plans, but the City cannot implement those without funding. The key to the future of the TWG will be to determine how to move forward considering the limited availability of funds.

Mr. Sandford agreed, noting that every city in California is confronting the same issue, but the cost of supporting a community and doing business is a fundamental issue, and the TWG's future could be helping the City think through reducing the overall cost of doing business, in a broader sense, through the use of technology and advanced techniques. He admitted that he did not have a plan for such a task, but was submitting the idea for the TWG members to give further thought to. Mr. Sandford further opined that when you do not have money, it is hard to make investments to make change, but that is actually the exact time that you have to start thinking about it because tomorrow's problems are not going to get any better unless you make changes.

Ms. Hall agreed, but noted that the people who make the final decisions have to look at the bottom line, and in the City's current financial situation, which involves considerable budget cuts, project objectives are sometimes overshadowed by costs.

Chair Burtner indicated the ideas presented should be pursued by the TWG, but he does not believe he is the person to lead that effort. While he has been very comfortable chairing the TWG for several years through the telecom and technology trends, he believes he has taken his role as far as he can. He suggested that perhaps someone else could chair the TWG into new directions, which might bring new ideas.

Ms. Hall suggested that the discussion regarding Chair Burtner stepping down be postponed to the next meeting when more TWG members might be present. Chair Burtner agreed.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

To be determined.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Burtner asked for a motion to adjourn. Helen Hall so moved. Larry Iboshi seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:38.

Next meeting scheduled for January 14, 2010.