



**CITY OF FULLERTON  
TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 4, 2010  
9:00 A.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Burtner called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present

Roger Burtner, Chair	Carl Samantello
Fred Canfield	Thad Sandford
Larry Iboshi	Ed Smith
Sam Ricchio	Paul Stover, Vice Chair

Helen Hall and Madusha Palliyage arrived after roll call.

Members Absent

Mike Carter, Harry Lamberth, Sujay Shah

Staff: Ofer Amrami, Network Specialist

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Burtner asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the November 19 meeting. With no corrections, Fred Canfield moved approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Sam Ricchio, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Chair Burtner asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the December 10 meeting. With no corrections, Thad Sandford moved approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Fred Canfield, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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

No discussion.

**2. Response to Google's proposal**

Chair Burtner indicated that he had sent a copy of Google's "Fiber for Communities" RFI notice to City Manager Chris Meyer and Assistant to the City Manager Rob Ferrier. The RFI was issued February 10, 2010. Response deadline is March 26, 2010.

From Google's webpage "Project Overview":

"Google is planning to build and test ultra-high speed broadband networks in a small number of trial locations across the country...delivering Internet speeds more than 100 times faster than what most Americans have access to today with 1 gigabit per second, fiber-to-the-home connections....offering service at a competitive price to at least 50,000, and potentially up to 500,000 people. As a first step, we're putting out an RFI to help identify interested communities. We welcome responses from local government, as well as members of the public."

From Google's webpage "Google Fiber for Communities":

"From now until March 26th, we're asking interested municipalities to provide us with information about their communities through a Request for Information, which we'll use to determine where to build our network."

Chair Burtner indicated that he had submitted a Nomination form as a private citizen, as had Sam Ricchio and Fred Canfield. Mr. Burtner encouraged the other TWG members to do the same.

Mr. Iboshi asked what is Google's motivation behind the experiment.

Fullerton Network Specialist Amrami indicated the motivation is Google Apps, noting that Google has a big push going for Google Apps ("cloud computing" aka "software as a service" technology) which relies on fast and reliable Internet access. If that access is not available, no one will actually start using Google Apps. This became a realization to Google fairly quickly, and is one of the motivations behind the "Google Fiber for Communities" project.

Mr. Iboshi asked what the City Manager's motivation is for wanting to do this project.

Ms. Hall responded that it would be an opportunity for the City to have a vendor come in and do this type of project with no initial costs to the City. In addition, city management views the project as a way of increasing economic development – making the city more attractive to businesses.

Mr. Iboshi pointed out that a project similar to what Google is proposing has been the focus of the TWG for the past four or five years, and asked why it is now getting the City Manager's attention. Also, if Fullerton is not chosen by Google as one of the test locations, what will the City Manager's next steps be?

Ms. Hall reminded Mr. Iboshi that the only problem that has ever existed that has prevented the TWG's recommended project from moving forward was a lack of funding, and until such time as the City Council is willing to commit funds to the project, the City will not be able to move forward.

Vice Chair Stover commented that the government has been part of the problem, basically helping the incumbent telecoms and others to slow down progress. Mr. Stover

provided Chair Burtner with an article regarding Google's Broadband Stimulus Program by Art Brodsky (Communications Director of Public Knowledge and former Communications Director for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration [NTIA]). Chair Burtner read the following excerpts from the article:

*"Google's announcement that it's going to create one gigabit-per-second networks in a few selected communities looks like what the broadband stimulus program should have been – an attempt to jump start technology, to invest in new ideas and to determine how people will use advanced networks given the chance to use them.*

*There is no downside to the Google announcement, except perhaps from the point of view of the federal government, which gave in to the lowest-common-denominator philosophy when structuring the stimulus program, and from the point of view of the incumbent telephone and cable carriers. The telephone and cable industries lobbied heavily to push down the speed limits for networks being built with stimulus funds then decided not to play when the grant program was announced and now are busy trying to keep other companies, municipalities and organizations from getting grants to build even the slower networks that the government will fund."*

*"Certainly test-bed projects like the ones Google will construct are part of the solution. If done correctly, they will show that open, neutral, nondiscriminatory networks can work, that high-speed applications can be developed and that the service can be offered at a reasonable price. Those are all lessons the incumbent telecom industry should take to heart, as the progress since the near-total deregulation of the industry, done at the industry's request, hasn't panned out that well."*

(A copy of the entire article can be obtained at: <http://www.publicknowledge.org/node/2896>)

Vice Chair Stover pointed out that broadband has actually decreased in this country over the last several years rather than increase, but it was brought on by interaction with the very companies that could have made the progress but had no interest in actually doing so.

IT Manager Helen Hall noted that Google would be conducting two 45-minute webinars on Friday, March 5, starting at 11:00 a.m., to provide more information regarding the proposed "Google Fiber for Communities" project. Ms. Hall indicated that TWG members could attend the webinar at City Hall in the IT training room. TWG members were asked to submit their questions regarding the project to Mr. Amrami in advance of the webinar, so that answers could hopefully be obtained during a Q&A session with Google.

Ms. Hall also pointed out that the Redevelopment Agency, at the direction of City Manager Chris Meyer, is taking the lead on the Google application process on behalf of the City, which will also involve other City departments such as Engineering and Community Development, as well as the IT division of the Administrative Services Department.

### **3. General Plan and TWG contribution – Zelinka**

No discussion. Al Zelinka was not in attendance.

### **4. Telecommunications Master Plan – Lamberth**

Ms. Hall asked Chair Burtner about the status of the telecommunications/technology master plan that Mr. Lamberth had been working on. Chair Burtner responded that at a previous meeting, which included Planning Manager Al Zelinka, Mr. Zelinka had indicated that once the City's General Plan was completed, he believed a telecommunications/technology master plan would be an excellent addition to the General Plan, but it was decided that development of the plan should not be the objective of the TWG, but one the City should undertake by hiring a consultant to prepare the plan, with the assistance and oversight of the TWG. Chair Burtner suggested that the TWG might be able to review another city's plan (such as Ontario) and make recommendations to Fullerton for establishing ordinances and policies pertaining to telecommunications and technology.

### **5. Future of the TWG**

Vice Chair Stover noted that the TWG had previously discussed whether it might be appropriate to consider a different name for the TWG, and that Planning Manager Zelinka had even suggested getting "innovations" in the name. Mr. Stover suggested "Technology Innovations Commission" and asked the TWG to consider the name change.

Mr. Stover also suggested that the TWG start coordinating "tech nights" (as suggested/discussed at a previous TWG meeting) in order to get the community involved and bring attention to the TWG's activities and objectives. He noted that events such as "tech nights" might also be very important to Google in its selection process for the broadband project. Ms. Palliyage indicated she was very interested in arranging tech nights, but had several questions: What would the restrictions/constraints be for a business or nonprofit that might be interested in participating? What would the city's involvement be? What would the TWG's role be? Will the schools be willing to participate? Mr. Stover indicated that Planning Manager Zelinka was very supportive of the "tech night" idea, and suggested that he needs to be involved in this discussion.

### **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

To be determined.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

#### **Meeting with ISMS**

Mr. Iboshi noted that when he learned of the Google initiative, he called ISMS since their proposal (previously submitted to the City and the TWG) was similar to Google's. When contacting ISMS he learned that City staff and a TWG member had recently held a meeting with ISMS, and Mr. Iboshi asked why TWG members were not informed of

this. IT Manager Helen Hall noted that she had not been informed of the meeting with ISMS either.

Chair Burtner acknowledged that he had participated in a meeting that had been held between ISMS representatives and City staff (including City Manager Chris Meyer, Assistant to the City Manager Rob Ferrier, Director of Engineering Don Hoppe) as well as Fullerton's legal counsel Bill Maricorena of Rutan & Tucker. Mr. Burtner could not explain why TWG members had not been informed or included in the meeting. He stated that he had meant to write a report on the meeting for TWG members, but evidently overlooked doing so. He indicated the primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss some serious concerns over various elements of ISMS' proposal. Mr. Burtner noted that Bill Marticorena is acknowledged to be an expert on telecommunications law and has worked on most of the negotiations between Fullerton and telcos/cablecos. At that meeting, Mr. Burtner learned for the first time that ISMS was asking for a 40-year exclusive contract; and although ISMS' proposal agrees to turn over 51% to the City once the system has paid for itself, Mr. Marticorena raised serious reservations with regards to whether the system would ever be profitable and whether the City would ever see 51%. Other issues of concern were content, access, and fiber to schools and government facilities.

#### VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol)

Chair Burtner indicated he would ask Mr. Lamberth to coordinate a workshop on VOIP to be held at the Fullerton Maintenance Services Department, as discussed in a previous TWG meeting.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chair Burtner asked for a motion to adjourn. Thad Sandford so moved. Larry Iboshi seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:02.

Next meeting date to be determined.