

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. CT (12:30 to 3 p.m. MT)
NET Boardroom

1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

Video Sites:

Grand Island Public Library, 211 North Washington, Grand Island, NE

Voc Rehab Scottsbluff, 505A Broadway, Suite 500, Scottsbluff, NE

Vocational Rehab Norfolk, 1212 West Benjamin, Norfolk, NE

Vocational Rehab Kearney, 215 West 60th, Suite 400, Kearney, NE

UNL Extension in Cheyenne County, 920 Jackson Street, P.O. Box 356, Sidney, NE 69162-0356

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rod Armstrong, Aim Institute (Lincoln site)

Randy Bretz, TEDxLincoln Curator (Lincoln site)

Jessica Chamberlain, Norfolk Public Library (Norfolk site)

Steve Fosselman, Grand Island Public Library (Grand Island site)

Phil Green, City of Blair (Lincoln site)

Gene Hand, Public Service Commission (Lincoln site)

Kim Kuhle, US Bank (Lincoln site, joined late)

Megan McGown, City of Sidney (Conference call, joined late)

Holly Woldt, Nebraska Library Commission (Lincoln site)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Norene Fitzgerald, Darla Heggem, Joan Modrell, Pam Adams, Dave Hahn, Connie Hancock, Jacob Knutson, David Lofdahl, Paul Ludwick, Monica Lueking-Crowe, Marion McDermott, Chris Anderson, Brett Baker, Steve Henderson

ROLL CALL NOTICE OF POSTING OF AGENDA, NOTICE OF NEBRASKA OPEN MEETINGS ACT & POSTING REVIEW OF MINUTES

In the absence of the chair, Ms. Byers presided over the meeting. Roll call was taken. Rod Armstrong, Randy Bretz, Jessica Chamberlain, Steve Fosselman, Phil Green, Gene Hand, and Holly Woldt were present at time of roll. A quorum was not present.

The council has not met since March 2012. Due to the extended time between the last meeting and several new members being on the council, the OCIO Legal Counsel advised Ms. Byers, to work with the Community Council to amend the charter so that the chair could approve minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MAKER SPACES AND FAB LABS

Shane Farritor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Michael Sauers, Nebraska Library Commission

Ms. Byers first learned about maker spaces and fab labs about a month ago and wanted to involve the Council in a discussion about the role of maker spaces and fab labs in Nebraska's broadband plan. Nebraska's economic development strategy emphasizes entrepreneurship, but currently does not provide much assistance in product development. Maker spaces can help entrepreneurs develop products and support a culture of innovation and creativity.

Dr. Farritor stated that maker spaces are simply places where people make things. Most importantly, maker spaces build community and a culture of collaboration. Dr. Farritor gave an example of how the collaborative culture of a maker space works by showing a photo of a coffee table built by a student. The

student who built the table wondered if the table could also serve as a remote control device. The student began working with others to develop a system of sensors to act as a remote control.

Over 200 attended the first meeting of UNL's Maker Club in February 2014. The club currently has over 500 registered members and offers classes on topics of interest to members including patent law, introduction to drawing, soft robotics, plein air painting, pinhole cameras. The club also sponsors meet ups. A joint maker space and business accelerator is planned for the Nebraska Innovation Campus' 4-H Building. The maker space may include specialized areas for laser and/or water jet cutters, a machine shop, wood working, metal working, textiles, electronics, plastics and welding. Dr. Farritor invited members to join the Makers Club at make.unl.edu.

Ms. Kuhle arrived to the meeting. Ms. McGown joined the meeting via telephone conference.

Mr. Sauers informed the Council that libraries are also part of the maker space movement. Several libraries in Nebraska already have or are in the process of purchasing 3D printers. The cost can be a burden to libraries which are currently going through financial challenges. There are a number of resources for 3D printing. 3D print files can be downloaded from www.thingiverse.com. Mr. Fosselman would like to see a statewide "technology" strategy for libraries to enhance and enrich preschool and career path education. Maker spaces would be great to provide options and opportunities to explore the career path. Ms. Chamberlain commented that she would want to make sure that a maker space meets the needs of the community. Dr. Farritor commented that he would not start with a 3-D printer when developing a maker space. Ms. Byers commented that there is probably still value in having a 3-D printer to expose people to this new technology and to help them understand how it is currently being used and how it may be used in the future.

ELECTION OF CHAIR*

Currently, the Council does not have a chair or co-chairs. Rod Armstrong has volunteered to serve as Chair.

Mr. Bretz moved to approve Rod Armstrong as the Chair of the Community Council. Ms. Kuhle seconded. Of the members present the vote was as follows: Armstrong-Abstained, Bretz-Yes, Kuhle-Yes, McGown-Yes, Green-Yes, Chamberlain-Yes, Fosselman-Yes, Woldt-Yes, Hand-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-1. Members Absent: Norene Fitzgerald, Darla Heggem, Joan Modrell, Pam Adams, Dave Hahn, Connie Hancock, Jacob Knutson, David Lofdahl, Paul Ludwick, Monica Lueking-Crowe, Marion McDermott, Chris Anderson, Brett Baker, and Steve Henderson. Because there was no quorum, no action was taken.

Discussion occurred regarding the benefits of having co-chairs. Phil Green volunteered to be co-chair.

Mr. Hand moved to approve Phil Green's offer to serve as the Co-Chair of the Community Council. Mr. Bretz seconded. Of the members present the vote was as follows: Armstrong-Yes, Bretz-Yes, Kuhle-Yes, McGown-Yes, Green-Abstained, Chamberlain-Yes, Fosselman-Yes, Woldt-Yes, Hand-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-1. Members Absent: Norene Fitzgerald, Darla Heggem, Joan Modrell, Pam Adams, Dave Hahn, Connie Hancock, Jacob Knutson, David Lofdahl, Paul Ludwick, Monica Lueking-Crowe, Marion McDermott, Chris Anderson, Brett Baker, and Steve Henderson. Because there was no quorum, no action was taken.

CHARTER AMENDMENT*

Revisions to the Community Council Charter were in the following sections:

- 7.4 Meeting Frequency

The Council shall meet ~~not fewer than four times per year (quarterly)~~ as needed, generally two or three times a year.

- 7.7.4 Minutes and Voting

The following sentence was added.

Minutes shall be approved by the chair or co-chairs and will be available for review at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Hand moved to approve the charter revisions. Ms. Kuhle seconded. The vote was as follows: Armstrong-Yes, Bretz-Yes, Kuhle-Yes, McGown-Yes, Green-Yes, Chamberlain-Yes, Fosselman-Yes, Woldt-Yes, Hand-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0. Members Absent: Norene Fitzgerald, Darla Heggem, Joan Modrell, Pam Adams, Dave Hahn, Connie Hancock, Jacob Knutson, David Lofdahl, Paul Ludwick, Monica Lueking-Crowe, Marion McDermott, Chris Anderson, Brett Baker, and Steve Henderson. Because there was no quorum, no action was taken.

There was discussion regarding the meeting frequency. Kim Kuhle suggested meeting more often. Ms. Byers suggested forming a subcommittee to recommend a meeting schedule. She suggested including the co-chairs and Ms. Kuhle on the subcommittee. Members supported this suggestion.

HOUSEHOLD BROADBAND SURVEY

Rebecca Vogt

In early 2014, our partners at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln conducted a survey of Nebraska households on their use of broadband. Ms. Vogt reviewed some of the results. Households were sampled from eight regions across the state. South Omaha, North Omaha and part of the North Central region were oversampled. There was a 35% response rate (2798 responses out of 8024 deliverable surveys) with a margin of error of 1.85%.

Study highlights included:

- Nebraska households with Internet access at home increased from 81% in 2010 to 86% this year.
- Households with broadband Internet service increased from 76% to 82%.

The complete report is available at broadband.nebraska.gov.

BUSINESS BROADBAND SURVEY AND COACHING

Charlotte Narjes

Charlotte Narjes presented highlights of the survey of Nebraska businesses on their use of broadband. The study found that Nebraska businesses are creating jobs and increasing revenue through the use of broadband applications.

- Broadband use is having a positive impact on jobs, with 364 respondents reporting a net increase of 654 jobs due to using the Internet. Over 50% of net jobs reported by respondents were attributed to use of the Internet.
- Broadband use is also having a positive impact on business revenue with typical respondents reporting 25 to 45 percent of revenue from the Internet.
- Cost savings of 4 percent were reported by respondents.

The Council discussed the “last mile” barrier that is still an issue for some communities and businesses. The broadband map provides useful information about broadband service in an area. Forming a community technology committee can be a first step to addressing last mile issues. It can also be helpful to contact elected officials, including Public Service Commissioners. For many communities the primary strategy may be to stimulate demand for broadband through technology fairs, brown bag lunch and learn sessions, classes in the local library, and other types of educational programs.

BROADBAND MAP AND MOBILE PULSE

Gene Hand and Cullen Robbins

The Public Service Commission (PSC) received a grant to collect data from the service providers regarding their coverage and availability across the state. Due to agreements with service providers, the broadband map is an aggregate map. In October, the PSC began using Mobile Pulse to collect data on mobile broadband speeds. Mobile Pulse is a free smart phone application which can be downloaded and used by individuals in the state. Members were given the URL to access and download the free application. Several members volunteered to share the link with their sector to assist the PSC.

Mr. Cullen's provided the following statistics.

55,000 individual tests statewide:

Verizon – 71%
Sprint – 10%
US Cellular – 9%
Viaero – 6%
AT&T – 4%

Download speeds:

Verizon – 6.7 MB/sec
AT&T – 3.5 MB/sec
Viaero – 2.8 MB/sec
US Cellular – 2 MB/sec

Download speeds for LTE Only devices:

Verizon – 7.5 MB/sec
AT&T – 3.6 MB/sec
Viaero – 3.2 MB/sec
US Cellular – 2.1 MB/sec
Sprint – 1.2 MB/sec

Ms. Woldt suggested that the PSC develop an informational flyer about Mobile Pulse.

Mr. Hand informed Council members that the FCC is taking steps to reform the eRate process.

UPDATES, PRELIMINARY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PRIORITY AREAS and NEXT STEPS

Several work groups met to provide input into the development of state broadband plan. Ms. Byers shared a preliminary draft of findings. Members were invited to provide feedback and recommendations. Sections included the following:

- Broadband Availability and Affordability
- Economic Development
- Agriculture
- Digital Literacy

One of the action items proposed exploring connectivity models for libraries. Connecting to Network Nebraska is possible model. Mr. Fosselman gave kudos to Tom Rolfes, Office of the CIO, and Network Nebraska. The Grand Island Library is a participant of Network Nebraska but they haven't done much with video. Mr. Fosselman would like to see other libraries join Network Nebraska. He also stated that he would like to see a high level of IT support for entities.

ADJOURN

Mr. Green moved to adjourn. Mr. Hand seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by Anne Byers of the Office of the CIO/NITC.