



Meeting Minutes
Civic Information Systems Commission (CISC)
Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.
Remote Participation

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair David Baker at 7:07 p.m.

2) Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Cozza, Ewing, Ptacek and Chair David Baker

Absent: Commissioner Newton and IT Director Alvin Nepomuceno

Also Present: Director of Communications Dan Yopchick and Communications Manager Erik Jacobsen

3) Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Ptacek motioned to approve the agenda for October 13, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ewing. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

4) Approval of meeting minutes from September 8, 2022

Commissioner Ewing motioned to approve the meeting minutes for September 8, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ptacek. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

5) Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Chair Baker read into the record a statement that the Village President has determined that an in-person public hearing is not practical or prudent due to the COVID-19 outbreak during Governor Pritzker's current disaster proclamation. It is also not feasible to have a person present at the public hearing due to the safety concern related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

6) New Business:

a) Commission Member Update

Chair Baker acknowledged Dan Yopchick as the new Communications Director of the Village of Oak Park and staff liaison to the CISC. Director Yopchick introduced himself to the commission. Chair Baker announced the resignation of Commissioner Wesley from the CISC due to his new appointment as Trustee of the Oak Park Village Board.



Meeting Minutes
Civic Information Systems Commission (CISC)
Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.
Remote Participation

Chair Baker thanked Cory for his service and strong dedication to the community. Chair Baker also introduced those on the CISC who were not present at the last meeting to newly appointed Commissioner Ewing.

b) Community Broadband Internet Discussion

Chair Baker introduced this discussion from the 2022 workplan and laid out possible approaches to a CISC recommendation. One possibility was to recommend to the Village Board to direct staff to provide internet service provider (ISP) availability information to residents. Another possible approach would be to recommend that staff inform residents of any available internet service rebates, mentioning the federal Affordable Connectivity Program. Also possible would be to recommend village staff apply for infrastructure grants where available, as well as recommend ways to achieve stronger service provider competition in the village.

Commissioner Ptacek mentioned that the majority of federal grants available under President Biden's Federal Infrastructure Act of 2021 would go to states. The two grants that would most likely apply to Oak Park would be the State Digital Equity Competitive Grant and the Middle Mile Grant. The former promotes broadband to underserved groups and covers 90% of program costs. The latter subsidizes buildout and construction of internet infrastructure and covers only 30% of program costs. There might not be an appetite locally for fiber buildout due to the high cost. Community wireless could be imagined but there would still be a high cost to implement.

Commissioner Ewing questioned the costs involved with municipal broadband in terms of resident cost and costs to the village. Commissioner Ptacek suggested possibly looking at cities offering municipal broadband, comparing their pricing to that offered by commercial providers. Aurora offers municipal broadband but it only serves businesses. One problem with municipal broadband is the high costs of personnel to implement for the village.

Chair Baker thought that potential issues with 5G internet might be wireless interference to all devices on the home network, typical of urban environments. Commissioner Ptacek questioned what percentage of Oak Park residents would switch to an Oak Park fiber project. A problem with fiber to the home (FTTH) is the large amount of time for the ISP to recoup its costs. Oak Park competing against ISP's could be a problem. Commissioner Ptacek's wife works closely with the Chicago Public Library's program of offering 4G enabled WiFi access points to those in need, and suggested Oak Park could deploy a similar program as an equity-based solution.

Chair Baker asked staff if there was any significant resident inquiry for discounted internet access. Communications Manager Jacobsen was not aware of any. Mr. Jacobsen mentioned a program offered by D97 that offers low income families discounted access to the internet as a program for students, and a possible equity



Meeting Minutes
Civic Information Systems Commission (CISC)
Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.
Remote Participation

option. Commissioner Cozza inquired if this program was ongoing or only available during Covid-19. It appears to be an ongoing program.

Chair Baker inquired about how grant writing works with village staff. Communications Manager Jacobsen said that this type of grant would most likely fall under the Development Customer Services Dept. He said the Village Manager has expressed past interest in internet infrastructure projects but staff could not take on this project immediately. Commissioner Ptacek emphasized that appetite for a project should exist before exploring grant applications.

Commissioner Ewing asked whether businesses in Oak Park could take on some type of community mesh network. Chair Baker demonstrated community internet availability as described on websites managed by the FCC, NTIA and other organizations. Commissioner Cozza considered whether Oak Park would be eligible for any grants at all due to what looked like strong availability of internet in the village.

Commission consensus was to look into WiFi hotspot deployment in the village as well as consider a solution similar to D97's Internet for All program as potential equity initiatives.

7) Old Business:

a) Cable Provider Contract Updates - Comcast Franchise Agreement

Chair Baker asked Communications Manager Jacobsen if there were any updates to the village cable contract with Comcast. Per Mr. Jacobsen, the village was recently approached by Comcast who showed interest in re-entering into the expired agreement. Comcast sees a benefit in maintaining an agreement with the village. The village met with two Comcast government liaisons and discussions went well. Oak Park, without a Comcast agreement and under a default state contract, currently takes 1% of user bills as fees. This provides revenue to the village, which originates only from cable TV customers and not internet users. Chair Baker wondered whether the fact that Comcast internet is provided by the same infrastructure as their cable TV service has any bearing on the agreement.

8) Adjourn

Commissioner Ptacek motioned to Adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cozza. A roll vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously. Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 8:24PM.

NEXT MEETING: November 10, 2022