



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Civic Information Systems Commission (CISC)**  
**Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.**  
**Remote Participation**

**1) Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair David Baker at 7:03 p.m.

**2) Roll Call**

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

Absent: Commissioner Ptacek and IT Director Alvin Nepomuceno

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

**3) Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Cozza motioned to approve the revised agenda for November, 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 October 13, 2022**

Commissioner Cozza motioned to approve the meeting minutes for October 13, 2022.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ewing. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

**5) Public Comment**

There were no public comments. Chair Baker reminded the public to make sure comments were being sent to [publiccomment@oak-park.us](mailto:publiccomment@oak-park.us). As a result of some errors on previous agendas, clicking on the agenda email link would send people to a different email address.

**6) New Business:**

**a) Community Broadband Internet Discussion, Continued**

Chair Baker summarized this topic as continued discussion of a 2022-23 workplan topic and an Oak Park Village Board goal of exploring affordability of internet services and private vs. public utilities delivering internet to residents. Municipal fiber was previously discussed but tabled due to potential lack of appetite from the public or village currently. Equity focused initiatives like the D97 Internet for All program for students eligible for free lunch, and the Chicago Public Library (CPL) program for lending out WiFi hotspots to residents was also discussed.

Chair Baker contacted the Oak Park Library for more information on their WiFi hotspot lending program and was told by a staffer that there was high demand for the devices.



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The OPPL staff member who spearheaded the program has not yet responded to Chair Baker's request for more info on the program. Chair Baker also recently contacted the technical staff at D97 for further information on their program and as of the meeting has not received a response, although there was previous mention that those devices are in high demand as well.

Commissioner Newton believed that users of library apps to borrow items should be able to get a sense of how long the wait list is for hotspots through the app. Commissioner Ewing thought that kids might be covered for web access through a program like D97's, so the remainder of the community's needs might be the CISC focus moving forward. There was a question of whether D200 offered a similar program. Commissioner Newton found their Internet Essentials option for eligible households by Comcast and ATT. Both offered home internet and WiFi for around \$10/month.

Agreement was reached to move forward with finding out more information on how OPPL manages their hotspot program and if there could be ways to get their waitlist down to zero. Commissioner Cozza mentioned that he received a survey from the Village in the mail with a question on rating from excellent to poor his accessibility to affordable internet. Communications Manager Jacobsen mentioned that he was a random questionnaire recipient for a village-wide survey. The last such survey was in 2019. Results should be available by early 2023.

Chair Baker demonstrated the non-profit website <https://muninetworks.org/communitymap> that lists all the municipal fiber networks in the country and showed how to separate them based on various types. He mentioned a few examples of what municipalities are charging residents for high speed internet on their networks. The city of Highland, IL charges what appears to be competitive rates for data speed to residents who buy internet service from them. Holland, MI appears to be trying to get residents very competitive gigabit speed on fiber but looks like each resident will pay a long term tax based on the value of their home. At <https://muninetworks.org/content/municipal-ftth-networks> you can see specific fiber to the home networks that cities are implementing along with linked information detailing buildout costs and return on investment, etc. There appear to be many creative solutions to funding municipal networks, and it may be challenging to research this topic and then make a recommendation on what specific actions Oak Park should take. Chair Baker suggested each commissioner research 1 or 2 towns, to help understand potential costs and benefits to Oak Park better. Another question is can the village mandate that residents and apartment building owners hook up their structures to village fiber? What are the legalities involved?

Commissioner Cozza showed support for looking into what other cities are doing and reporting back at the next meeting. However, overall, he was more supportive of the equity issue of getting more internet to residents for cheaper than getting involved in a larger infrastructure project. However, more information could change his views on the issue. Commissioner Ewing acknowledged the costs for building out a rural area



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could be substantially different than the costs for a more densely populated Oak Park. He also felt that some leverage against the private utilities could be a benefit in that the speeds they provide for various costs may not be the best that could be provided overall. Their networks may not be as well maintained as they could be. Commissioner Newton felt that anything having to do with raising taxes in Oak Park would be a hard sell to the community, and focusing on equity would be a better initial path. Chair Baker also noted some literature he consulted that suggested that having a community wide fiber network could be more advantageous and efficient for rolling out a smart cities plan.

Chair Baker suggested each member research 1 or 2 example municipal fiber towns, including some with cooperatives between government and business, to see how they are implementing community broadband.

**b) Communications Director Updates**

Communications Director Yopchick had to leave the meeting early and Communications Manager Jacobsen gave a report.

There are no current updates on the Comcast franchise agreement from the village attorney.

The control room A/V project is focused on rewiring meeting rooms to host in-person meetings and record them, and migrating from analog to digital technology in the TV control room. Village staff are meeting with a consultant to map out costs and proposals. Total cost should be just under \$1M, and commissions should ultimately come back to in person meetings in 2023 with recording capability.

The Granicus website/311/community engagement platform project is moving along. Communications Director Yopchick is working on the website portion and public works on the CRM (311) module. A website information architecture and mapping meeting was held the previous week by staff. A community survey is planned to gain insight into resident usage of the current website to inform a strategy on how to redesign the new one. The community engagement platform is anticipated to allow staff to get community insight on current issues in the village, for example, what to do about leaf blowers. The plan is to roll out the new Granicus platform by summer or early fall of 2023. Supply chain concerns are ongoing for equipment delivery and could affect rollout time.

**7) Old Business:**

There was no old business that the commission wished to discuss.

**8) Adjourn**



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Commissioner Cozza motioned to Adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Newton. A roll vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously. Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 8:03PM.

NEXT MEETING: December 8, 2022