

## **Intelligent City Advisory Committee**

**Thursday, April 3, 2013 – 3:00pm**  
**Council Chamber, City Hall**

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillor Bill Harper - Co-chair, City Council  
Michael Hrybyk - Co-chair, Community Member  
Reg Nordman - Community Member, EDAC representative  
Jen Arbo - Community Member  
Nelson Eng - Community Member  
Ian McLeod - Community Member  
Gerry Akkerman - Translink

#### **REGRETS:**

Jonina Campbell - Community Member  
John Longbottom - Community Member  
Rod Carle - General Manager, Electrical Operations Design & Administration (staff)

#### **STAFF:**

Blair Fryer - Manager, Communications and Economic Development  
Alvin Chok - Chief Information Officer  
Bev Grieve - Manager, Planning  
Andréa Parkerson - Economic Development Coordinator/Recording Clerk  
Stephanie Lam - Committee Clerk, Legislative Services

#### **GUESTS:**

Jaspreet Sran - Douglas College student  
Kiran Dhaliwal - Douglas College student

The meeting was called to order at 3:04pm.

#### **1.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Agenda approved as circulated.

## **2.0 OATHS & ORIENTATION**

**Procedural note:** Item 3 was considered before item 2.

### **2.1 Oaths and swearing in conducted by Stephanie Lam.**

All members present took the oath and were sworn in.

Those who were not present are to confirm receipt of orientation materials and contact the Legislative Services Department regarding the oath.

All members to complete permission form and submit to the Recording Clerk.

**Procedural note:** Stephanie Lam exited at 3:19pm

## **3.0 INTRODUCTIONS**

### **3.1 Introductions**

Each member introduced themselves and gave a brief history of how they came to be on the Intelligent City Advisory Committee, and mentioned if they were on the Intelligent City Task Force in 2012.

Councillor Harper introduced Michael Hrybyk as co-chair of the Committee.

## **4.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **4.1 Terms of Reference overview – Blair Fryer**

Blair Fryer, Manager of Communications and Economic Development reviewed the Terms of Reference document (Doc#386844), and noted that they need to be updated in order to officially open vacancies for Translink and Fraser Health. Mr Fryer then read the five points of the mandate.

Councillor Harper added that the mandate was created to allow flexibility, giving the Committee room to work in a way that best fits the Committee.

## 5.0 INTELLIGENT CITY TASK FORCE REPORT OVERVIEW

### 5.1 Intelligent City Task Force Report Overview – Alvin Chok

Mr. Chok, Chief Information Officer, introduced the presentation (Doc # 410008) with a brief timeline of the Intelligent City Task Force work:

- Creation of Intelligent City Task Force under the EDAC in January 2012
- Report for Council drafted by June 2012
- Report presented and adopted by Council in September 2012

Mr. Chok's presentation highlighted the following points:

- Economic Development is a driver and adds to our ability to compete globally.
- We're currently in phase one, in which infrastructure is created and the Task Force becomes a committee and reports directly to Council.
- Intelligent City is based on the Intelligent Communities Forum (ICF) model which looks at five pillars: broadband, digital inclusion, knowledge workforce, advocacy and marketing, and innovation.
- One of the goals is to be recognized by ICF as an "intelligent city".
- Cities that are recognized as "intelligent" receive an economic boost.
- New Westminster shares many characteristics of past cities that have won such as being small city with high density, and being geographically central.
- The more we spend on building a knowledge workforce the better it will be for the economy because the knowledge sectors are growing quickly.
- The Intelligent City Task Force report that was presented to Council in September 2012 was well received by Council.

Councillor Harper explained that the City has been proactive in enhancing the local economy and has an overall strategy to preserve the industrial and commercial land space. A number of properties have been rezoned to encourage this type of growth, including the Brewery District, property near Braid SkyTrain station, and areas in Queensborough.

Councillor Harper also briefly recounted his experiences at the ICF in 2012, highlighting the fact that Stratford and Riverside had two very different strategies and yet they were both winners of the ICF award. Riverside focused on education, creating paperless education and integrated incubators into the post-secondary institutions. Councillor Harper also noted that Council is supportive of this initiative, and recognizes that there are investments required to be successful.

The Committee discussed the current status of New Westminster in terms of Intelligent City. New Westminster currently has approximately 10km of active fibre, and approximately 7km of conduit that is ready for new fibre to be laid.

Co-chair Michael Hrybyk referred to the September 2012 report (Doc #312577), suggesting that all committee members review section 7.2 of the document which contains the recommendations and road map for the Intelligent City Advisory Committee to focus on.

## **5.2 Stratford Video Clip**

Mr. Chok played a video on YouTube, created by the City of Stratford which briefly showcases their experience as an intelligent city. The video included an overview of the reasons they chose to become “intelligent” and benefits of it. It also included short interviews with community members, educators and business owners in Stratford.

In response, the Committee discussed the high-speed connectivity between Finland and Japan which has a hub in Iqaluit, Nunavut. The hub is attracting high powered business because of the high-speed access. The Committee was then exhorted to not think too small on what they can accomplish.

## **6.0 SHAW INITIATIVE**

### **6.1. Shaw Initiative Overview – Alvin Chok**

Mr. Chok reported the following points:

- Shaw approached the City of New Westminster in December 2011 with a proposal to bring wifi to the City.
- The City invested in a pilot project in 2010 which involved Queen’s Park, Uptown, and the public library. The project was successful with 2000 users, and received media attention.
- In August 2012 an agreement was made with Shaw allowing them to create 100 access points in popular areas, which would also act as a means to provide better service to local customers.
- The City of New Westminster ensured that all Shaw access points would be open to use by the City as well.
- If the City were to put in 100 access points themselves, it would cost approximately \$700,000 plus maintenance; the deal with Shaw provides the City access without the cost.
- The access points are currently being implemented.

A short discussion amongst the Committee revealed that wifi access will be free for all Shaw customers, which is approximately 60% of New Westminster households. The City will utilize the Shaw access points at selected civic facilities to offer free wifi access to non-Shaw customers. Committee members asked if Shaw is laying more cable, staff advised that Shaw will be using their existing infrastructure.

## **7.0 OVERVIEW OF THE INTELLIGENT CITY FORUM**

### **7.1 Overview of the Intelligent City Forum – Councillor Harper, Blair Fryer**

Councillor Harper described ICF and his experience at the forum in 2012:

- ICF 2012 was exclusive, with approximately 250 people being invited.
- ICF has its own way of ranking. The process includes cities making applications in the fall to make it into the top 25, then ICF staff travel to interview the top 25 cities and narrow the list to 7, which is then narrowed down to the 1 final winner.
- Winning cities receive huge benefits in their local economy.
- The cities that don't win but are shortlisted still receive publicity for the investments that they have made.
- For example, Riverside focused on education and incubators with a strong emphasis on digital inclusion. They gave away 5000 computers, with training, to people who otherwise would not be able to afford them. This tactic raises the entire city up so that everyone can be included as they move forward as a digital economy.

Councillor Harper explained that a few years ago it seemed as though no local municipalities were focusing on this, and now cities are not only focusing on becoming “intelligent” they are moving at a quick pace that is getting them recognition.

Mr. Fryer added that the 2013 summit will be held in June, and he will be attending with Rod Carle and Alvin Chok.

- They will be attending with the purposes of gleaning as much information as possible, putting New Westminster on the radar, as well as liaising with cities who have won or been shortlisted.
- Each year the forum has a theme, this year the summit theme is innovation and employment, more specifically, innovation as a way to create employment.
- It is clear that those who have been a part of this process have really launched themselves forward in terms of desirability for living, working, and playing.

The Committee discussed the value of ICF and the other opportunities that are available. For example, Australia is wiring the entire country with fibre to give access to everyone; and Seattle has made great strides in innovation without pursuing an award such as the Intelligent Community award. Committee members recognized the value of pursuing recognition from ICF as it will be a driver to move the City forward, however they also acknowledged that ICF is not the only initiative of value.

Members then discussed the importance of looking at the overall picture of what the Committee desires to achieve. This includes enticing businesses with infrastructure instead of tax incentives, creating a place that people desire to both live and work in, becoming leaders in innovation, education, and collaboration.

Delving more into the collaboration aspect, the Committee discussed the value of cultivating strong working relationships with the neighbouring municipalities, as well as the provincial and possibly the federal government with respect to the Intelligent City initiatives. The provincial and federal involvement may also include funding programs such as Build Canada which offers funding for up to 50% of the project's total cost.

## **8.0 GOALS & ACTIVITY TIMELINE**

### **8.1 Goals and activity timeline**

Mr. Hrybyk outlined the recommendations that were published in the Intelligent City Task Force Report which includes the following:

- Form a more permanent working group – completed. This Committee is the more permanent working group.
- Promote development around Anvil Centre.
- Promote wifi with River Market and the Network Hub, or other commercial areas as digital hubs.
- Align with Douglas and Citizen Connect.
- Incubator strategies.
- Build a collaborative relationship with Douglas College and the City of New Westminster.
- Infrastructure planning. Ensure Planning and Utilities are working together on cabling.

The Committee addressed New Westminster's current Intelligent City status and brought forward ideas to complement the recommendations that the Intelligent City Task Force report outlined. Currently, the City does not have the budget to create a formal plan for laying fibre in the entire city. Instead, the City is taking an opportunistic approach and laying conduit whenever there is road work being done. Mr Chok acknowledged that a study needs to be done this year on the best options to implement the infrastructure that is needed.

Members talked about education as a possible focus for New Westminster, noting that Coquitlam schools are connected to Qnet. Riverside, a contender for the ICF award, became successful in their initiative by focusing on education, listing a doubling of graduating students as one of their goals.

The Committee agreed that a shared vision is necessary and questioned whether a formal process was needed, such as hiring a professional to hold a visioning

session followed by a strategic planning session. Members also highlighted the importance of metrics and the use of them to measure progress. In future meetings metrics will be discussed in detail and a dashboard created to enable the Committee to implement, evaluate, and adjust as the initiatives progress.

## **9.0 MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2013**

### **9.1 Scheduling**

The Committee suggested that the meetings be held once a month until a framework is created, and then revisit meeting frequency as necessary.

The Committee agreed that Thursdays in the afternoon are ideal, and suggested that the meeting occur in a recurring pattern, for example, the first Thursday of the month.

### **9.2 Next meeting date**

3:00pm, Thursday, May 16, 2013 – EOC 2, City Hall

## **10.0 OTHER BUSINESS**

No items.

## **11.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52pm

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Councillor Bill Harper  
Chair

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Andréa Parkerson  
Recording Clerk