

## Intelligent City Advisory Committee

Thursday, March 20, 2014 – 3:00pm  
EOC 1, City Hall

### MINUTES

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Bill Harper - Co-chair, City Council  
Michael Hrybyk - Co-chair, Community Member  
Reg Nordman - Community Member, EDAC representative  
Gerry Akkerman - TransLink  
Jonina Campbell - Community Member  
Jen Arbo - Community Member  
Nelson Eng - Community Member  
Gary Munro - Community Member

#### REGRETS:

Philip Barker - Fraser Health Authority  
Ian McLeod - Community Member  
Susan Buss - Deputy Chief Librarian

#### STAFF:

Blair Fryer - Manager, Communications and Economic Development  
Rod Carle - General Manager, Electric Utility Commission  
Alvin Chok - Chief Information Officer  
Bev Grieve - Director, Development Services  
Jim Lowrie - Director, Engineering  
Andréa Khan - Economic Development Coordinator/Recording Clerk

#### GUESTS:

Roel Coert - Consultant, Go4Objectives  
Gary Holowatiuk - Director, Finance and Information Technology

The meeting was called to order at 3:07pm.

#### 1.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

#### MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** the March 20, 2014 agenda be adopted, with an addition to item 4 – a review of the February 17, 2014 Rhyzome presentation to Council.

**CARRIED.**

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

## **2.0 ADOPTION OF FEBRUARY 18, 2014 MINUTES**

### **MOVED and SECONDED**

**THAT** the February 18, 2014 meeting minutes be adopted.

**CARRIED.**

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

## **3.0 SUBGROUP PROGRESS UPDATES**

### **3.1 Infrastructure Subgroup – Alvin Chok**

This subgroup is currently looking at the business model options (as will be presented in item 4b), and the fibre network plan. Members of this group have also met with other City of New Westminster staff regarding grant funding for the infrastructure project.

### **3.2 Innovation Subgroup – Gerry Akkerman**

Currently this subgroup is working on establishing a foundation for creating an environment for innovation in New Westminster. To date, a high-level document has been created to reflect the best ideas. The subgroup is interested in innovation in the medical field because of the location of the Royal Columbia Hospital and surrounding medical community. When the foundation is confirmed, the group will present its ideas to the Committee.

Procedural note: Gary Holowatiuk arrived at 3:11pm

Procedural note: Michael Hrybyk arrived at 3:12pm

### **3.3 Digital Inclusion Subgroup – Councillor Harper**

The Digital Inclusion Subgroup is currently investigating best practices right now in order to create a comprehensive needs assessment. The needs assessment will allow the subgroup to determine the best means to serve the community. This subgroup is also planning to do an inventory of digitally inclusive activities that the City is already doing and/or planning.

### **3.4 Knowledge Workforce Subgroup – Jonina Campbell**

The focus of the Knowledge Workforce Subgroup is a Maker Space initiative. The New Westminster Maker Space is led by Douglas College in partnership with the River Market. The current plan is to locate it in the River Market and use 3D printers as supplied by Douglas College. The next step for this project is to complete the business plan and determine the needs and viability of the initiative. The Maker Space group consists of: Mark Shieh (River Market), Thor Borgford (Douglas College), David Wright (Douglas College), David Moulton (Douglas College), Reg Nordman (Rocket Builders/ICAC), Blair Fryer (City of New Westminster), Andréa Khan (City of New Westminster).

### **3.5 Marketing & Advocacy Subgroup – Councillor Harper/Jen Arbo**

This subgroup is on hold for now until there are concrete features and benefits that can be promoted to the community. As a tool for Committee members, a presentation will be created to enable members to clearly communicate what “intelligent city” is. When the timing is right, the next step will be to create a marketing strategy.

The Committee discussed the value in creating a video to promote the idea of the intelligent city initiative, and concluded that video and social media will be key promotional pieces when there are talking points to promote.

## **4.0 CONSULTANT WORK PROGRESS UPDATES**

### **4.1 Roadmap**

The consultant (Rhyzome) was unable to attend to present the progress update. Mr. Chok reported that the consultant is close to finishing the draft, and that the Committee can expect to receive it within a couple of weeks.

### **4.2 Review of February 17, 2014 Council presentation**

The Committee discussed the presentation done by the consultant (Rhyzome) to Council on February 17, 2014, noting the following:

- There was too much emphasis on Stratford, and not enough information given for strategies that New Westminster could explore;
- The purpose of this initiative is economic development, not an award from the Intelligent Communities Forum (ICF), and that less focus should be put on applying and participating in the ICF;
- The Committee was disappointed in the level of direct engagement that the consultant had with the individual Committee members;
- The expectations held by the Committee that were unmet included:
  - details on strategy and information on how best to achieve the goals in New Westminster;
  - Milestones to note;
  - Pitfalls to avoid;
  - Details on how companies and investment can be attracted by leveraging the digital infrastructure.

The Committee would like the final deliverable (Roadmap) to include key benefits of the goals, measures to use, and reasonable timelines. The final report should be sent to the Committee for feedback before it is presented to Council.

### **4.3 Infrastructure**

Consultant Roel Coert (Go4Objectives) presented “Municipal Fibre Network, the business options” to the Committee. The presentation included an overview of four business models, the investments required, revenues to be expected and payback estimates. The presentation also included the proposed network architecture.

The four models presented were as follows:

- Leasing ducts and pole space
- Leasing fibre (recommended model)
- Leasing circuits
- Full triple play provider

The Committee discussed the impacts of each model with regards to pricing, relationships with Internet Service Providers (ISPs), and the CRTC. They also discussed the value of anticipating technology and making the appropriate steps to implement the new technology in a timely manner.

Procedural note: Jonina Campbell exited at 4:04pm

Mr. Coert recommended using an open access model to and to remain at the connection level to avoid being put in a place of direct competition with the local ISPs. He also encouraged the Committee to become involved with the local ISPs to gauge interest in the suggested model, and have open discussion about the plans for New Westminster.

Procedural note: Gerry Akkerman exited at 4:31pm

The Committee discussed in depth the model that had been recommended, the value of this model and whether it is a good use of public funds.

Procedural note: Gary Munro exited at 4:40pm

The Consultant engaged in a questions and answer period with the Committee, explaining the benefits of the open access model which has been successfully implemented in other countries as well as in Canada. Discussion ensued, and the Committee expressed that they would like more information on each of the business models presented, with direct comparisons made between each.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

**THAT** the Intelligent City Advisory Committee support the open access business model as the business model that is pursued by the Consultant.

**CARRIED.**

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural note: Nelson Eng exited at 4:48pm

**5.0 BUILD CANADA FUNDING PROPOSAL**

Mr. Chok and Mr. Carle reported to the Committee that this initiative is most likely to qualify for funding from the Build Canada Fund, which will be available as of April 2015. One of the criteria necessary to qualify, is that the project be included

in capital expenditures in the five year budget plan. There is support from the City to have this initiative included in the 2015 budget.

Aside from the Build Canada Fund, the Intelligent City initiative may be able to apply for planning money, which would aid in preparing for the Build Canada Fund application.

Procedural note: Jim Lowrie at 5:03pm

This will remain a standing item on the agenda until funding is received.

## **6.0 OTHER BUSINESS**

No items.

## **7.0 NEXT STEPS**

No items.

## **8.0 MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm.

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Councillor Bill Harper  
Chair

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Andréa Khan  
Recording Clerk