



INTELLIGENT CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 14, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.
City Hall, Council Chamber Meeting Room

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Patrick Johnstone	- Co-Chair, City Council
Michael Hrybyk	- Co-Chair, Douglas College Representative
Ron Cann	- Local Business Community Representative
Jolene Foreman	- Local Business Community Representative
Bill Harper	- Community Member
Maureen McRae-Stanger	- School District #40 Representative
Reg Nordman	- Technology Industry Representative
Paul Romein	- Local Business Community Representative
Cyrus Sy	- Technology Industry Representative
Levon Zadavec-Powell	- Technology Industry Representative

MEMBER REGRETS:

Gerry Akkerman	- TransLink Representative
Nimmi Bangert	- Community Member
Brigid Canil	- Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure Representative
Wendy Parry	- Douglas College Representative
Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Council Representative

GUESTS:

Ashish Syal	- Sierra Wireless
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STAFF:

Rupinder Basi	- Senior Planner
Alvin Chok	- Chief Information Officer
Blair Fryer	- Manager, Communications & Economic Development
Patricia Jecks	- Intelligent City Project Manager
Phil Kotyk	- Fibre Networks Operations Manager (arrived at 9:12)
Jim Lowrie	- Director of Engineering Services
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the agenda of the June 14, 2019 Intelligent City Advisory Committee meeting be adopted, with the following addition:

6.1 Member Roundtable

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1. Adoption of the Minutes of March 15, 2019

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the March 15, 2019 Intelligent City Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1. Sierra Wireless Internet of Things (IoT) Practice for SMART Cities

Ashish Syal, Sierra Wireless, provided a PowerPoint presentation including the following information:

- Background of Sierra Wireless, their products, and uses of their cellular technology;
- Benefits of Low Power Wide Area (LPWA) technologies;
- Sierra Wireless' position in the IoT market, in terms of cars, smart meters, laptops, and healthcare applications, and examples of built technology;
- Details of Sierra Wireless' Mangoh platform, which was developed to test and engage ideas and includes an active open source community;
- Ideas and examples of the use of Mangoh, such as:
 - Smart Agriculture: using Mangoh for an inventory tracking system;
 - Live feed tracking of runners at the Vancouver Sun Run; and,
- Potential partnership opportunities with the City, which could include community-based IoT, education about IoT through New Media Gallery, as well as potential 5G collaborations in the future.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Syal provided the following information:

- The applications of LPWA technologies for the City could be for low-bandwidth applications, such as sending small bytes of data;
- No existing changes would be needed to existing infrastructure for LPWA;
- Mangoh is beneficial for Sierra Wireless in two ways:
 1. Enables customers to go to market quickly, therefore decreasing the length of time for revenue to be generated; and,
 2. Has an open support forum, therefore the bottom line costs are reduced.

Upon discussion, the Committee made the following suggestions for possibilities of collaboration with Sierra Wireless:

- There may be an opportunity and synergy for Sierra Wireless to work in conjunction with Martino Tran at UBC to provide data for the Community Intelligence Platform that his group is working on;
- There may be opportunity for retrofit of the existing water meter infrastructure with IoT;
- Development of a study on how pedestrians manage intersections and other transportation issues;
- Examine how the City could be a neutral wireless 5G platform that carriers could come in and use; and,
- Collection of garbage weight data, with a sensor applied to waste bins.

The Committee made the following comments:

- It may be beneficial to have a dedicated discussion about 5G at a future ICAC;
- As the ICAC deals with innovation, the ideas presented fit in well with the Committee's mandate; and,
- It would be ideal to involve community volunteers for a working group on how IoT could be used within the City context.

It was decided that the next steps would be to hold further discussion at the Management Committee level, and to develop a possible working group, or further ideas for partnership, with Sierra Wireless. Cyrus Sy noted that he would be interested in being involved in a working group.

3.2. Brainstorming Session

Ron Cann, Local Business Community Representative, led the Committee in a brainstorming exercise on the topic of establishing goals and ideals for a citizen engagement platform for the City, based on the following definition:

A digital method for efficiently and effectively engaging with community members, to gather input and feedback on City initiatives, plans and issues.

The Committee made the following comments:

- An engagement platform would ideally meet Council and staff’s needs to receive input, understand the pulse of the community, and have feedback reflected in decision-making;
- The public engagement strategy showed concerns that engagement activity always attracts the same people;
- It would be important to ensure that any feedback gathered and received is representative of the diversity of the City; and,
- An engagement platform would help to give an indication on the interest levels of the public on the City’s projects.

The Committee compiled responses in examination of the following two questions:

1. What would success look like? (Goals)

- Increased amount of community input;
- Increased quality of meaningful input;
- Increased community representation involved in input;
- Creation of successful feedback loops and follow-through, to demonstrate the value of providing feedback;
- Increased engagement leading to increased voter turnout;
- A safe, secure, and transparent system; and,
- Ease of adoption: easy to use and accessible.

2. What do we want the system to do or provide? (Features)

- Be easy to understand, with a base level of language and education needed;
- Provide a feedback loop and show results quickly;
- Allow for polling, or “temperature taking”;
- Allow an information exchange, with user-identified levels of information available;
- Provide a built-in way to collaborate, i.e. vote up a topic or response;
- Allow for IT support;
- Provide a location for citizens to initiate discussion; and,
- Provider to have local success stories and/or local government experience.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1. Intelligent City Sharepoint Site Update

Patricia Jecks, Intelligent City Project Manager, discussed the ICAC Sharepoint site, an online platform for the committee, noting that efforts would be made to ramp up its use among members.

Upon discussion, the Committee made the following comments:

- Any discussions that occur at the Committee meeting (such as in Item 3.2) could be posted on Sharepoint and further input could occur; and,
- The Sharepoint site could be used to post the meeting minutes for review.

4.2. SMART21 2020 Application

Patricia Jecks, Intelligent City Project Manager, highlighted the projects being highlighted in the SMART21 2020 application and indicated that, although it is ready to be submitted, there is still time for feedback from ICAC members.

5.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

5.1. Operational Team Updates

(a) Intelligent Economy

Blair Fryer Manager of Communications and Economic Development, updated the Committee regarding the Intelligent Economy Operational Team's objectives, noting the following:

- Increasing tech and digital media companies in the City – the following companies were discussed:
 - Hatfield Group, an environmental consultancy firm, has opened in the Law Courts;
 - Epic Story Interactive, a company building free mobile video games, is active on Agnes St;
 - Head Start Medical, which prints 3D medical helmets for children, is expanding in Uptown;
- Cultivating strategic partnerships – the following projects were discussed:
 - Douglas College and the Street Level connectivity project with “NearToIt” technology;
 - Memorandum of Understanding with SD40 is encouraging increased engagement with the New Media Gallery learning lab;

- Piloting digital platform – the exercise conducted in Item 3.2 was a first step in the process, and a Public Engagement Manager is being hired; and,
- Develop and implement a Corporate Innovation Policy – this is outstanding in the City and a policy is still to be developed.

Upon discussion, the Committee noted that it would be important to explore collaboration with other local cities, particularly at UBCM.

(b) Digital Government

Alvin Chok, Chief Information Officer updated the Committee regarding the Digital Government Operational Team’s objectives, noting the following two projects:

- Maintain leadership position for Open Data – the City’s Open Data 2.0 beta version is undergoing professional review and is based on an ESRI platform, and should be ready for a demonstration at the next meeting;
- Improve and expand e-Government services – Funding has been received for this project and staff are currently developing the framework and timeline;
 - Staff are receiving best practices from the City of Richmond;
 - The biggest challenge is in bringing together all of the City’s legacy systems;

Upon discussion, the Committee noted that it may make sense to develop a residents working group to get feedback on the e-government services as they are rolled out.

(c) Intelligent Infrastructure

No report was given.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Member Roundtable

1. Electrical Outages

It was noted that an improvement in communication about the status of power outages would be beneficial for the community.

Blair Fryer, Manager of Communications and Economic Development, noted that, following a debrief with the Electrical Utility, a set of communications protocols have been brought forward, which should be in place for the future.

2. Thanks to Patricia Jecks

Upon discussion, the Committee noted respect for Ms. Jecks' efforts in the progress of the committee, and for her skills and tenacity.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the ICAC formally thank Patricia Jecks for all her efforts in support of ICAC initiatives.

CARRIED.

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

7.0 NEXT MEETING

The next ICAC Meeting Date is Friday, September 13, 2019 at 9:00 am in Council Chamber.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Certified correct,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Councillor Patrick Johnstone
Co-Chair

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Mike Hrybyk
Co-Chair

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Heather Corbett
Committee Clerk