

Davis Gig Meeting
an Ad-HOC Citizens Group

Meeting 5

08/05/15
6:30pm @ Sudwerk

Present

Rob Nickerson
Todd Kaiser
Braden Pellet
Paul Snawder
Scott Fuglei
Don Sherman
Jax Williamson
Alvin Remmers
Gary Darling
Shneor Sherman
Matt Williams
Paul and Merrie Lee and Family

Round the table introductions

- RN Davis resident, network operator at Omsoft for 18 years. Works on DavisGIG.
- PS is a South Davis resident, and retired and VERY interested in having fiber optic put in.
- JW works as a network engineer at Beehiveley and very interested in the project
- DS new resident, operator of Sizzlpix which works with high definition imaging
- AR a West Davis resident, operates a web media property, looking for very fast upload alternatives
- TK Videographer at UCD, Twitter outreach, PR design and Video for DavisGIG
- BP Programmer at SmashWords, Involved with the Davis Makerspace, webteam front and backend for DavisGIG
- SF Stay at home Dad, Prior COOP Marketing Manager, An advocate of Community based efforts around access to utilities and commodities
- SS A 38 + some odd Davis Resident, retired IT consultant.
- GD Long experience with the Internet, works at State of California
- ML Recently moved to Davis, Editor
- MW on Finance and Budget Committee, Retired. Politically Active and advocate for municipal fiber and DavisGIG.

- Reiterate the goal

- The city would purchase the fiber optic network, it would be managed and operated by a community non profit, Ideally Davis Community Network and we lease access to the city owned infrastructure to private IP providers to sell, TV, Internet, Telephony and future services on the network.
- Since there were a lot of new face, and it had been a few months since the last meeting RN delivered a general background summary of the current group efforts, past decisions, and group operations. Upon asking for questions at the conclusion of the report
 - PS - What sort of specific contact with City Staff has their been ?
 - We've had informal meeting with Robb Davis, phone conversation with Brett Lee, at the council, and innovation staff, and city manager and assistant city manager at the staff level
 - DS wanted to know if there were other groups discussing in Davis discussing this, and perhaps a corporate investor could be found to use our city as a testbed high speed deployment and defray this cost entirely abrogating the need to pursue a bond measure at the June 2016 election.

- SS indicated we have enough local talent to deliver an FSR from within our group, and we might want to short cut the RFP for an FSR process. Then the only RFP we need to put out is the request for the fiber optic build out. RN had reservation that perhaps the staff and council will want a report done by a consultative group that has done other municipalities versus a local organization.
- AR asked about a technical Plan, RN indicated that this project is in its Public Assessment phase, and we have been checking the community sentiment around the issue to gauge interest before additional time consuming steps are taken to complete the project. A technical plan will require many hours to put together.
- AR also asked if there was a budget. RN disclosed there is a small budget of approximately \$725 that is primarily being used for Public Outreach materials now.

- Old business

- Farmer's Market Saturdays

- RN reported he has attended 3 Market Saturday events and has had good success making contacts and generating interest.
- RN indicated that we will keep intermittently tabling as time is available and that it is a worthwhile effort of the group. Future tabling opportunities will be presented to the group as they develop, volunteers are REQUESTED for this effort, it makes it worth while to make those connections with neighbors and business contacts.

- Community Outreach Event - Recorded

- RN reported the outreach event was successful. The room was full, and City staff attended the event. It was professionally recorded, and a video of the event is available at youtube.com
- RN mentioned that the Cheif Innovation Officer, and Deputy where in attendance and did find things rewarding and worthwhile. We had lots of good questions from the community,
- A citizen from El Macero discussed a possible synergy on an FSR with a joint El Macero effort.

- Assisting the in its RFP process for the FSR

- There was a considerable discussion, as always, on this topic of the best way of assisting overworked city staff through the FSR process, for a community fiber optic deployment. RN has sent city staff links to RFP's provided by list member Richard Lowenberg, some found on articles from muninetworks.org and have not had continued success at furthering the effort beyond that.
- GD brought up the ever shrinking time line to the 2016 election and the determined necessity to move the FSR process along. Another meeting with city staff is rather urgently needed.
- Some solutions to this were discussed and could include, getting a 1-2 page document together, that is a more specific proposal of operations and details than the web site provides, with specifics as to the operations of this planned network. Have the website supporters email this statement, or generate sufficient email/postal mail requests to motivate a higher prioritization of the project. ML volunteered editing skills to work over this document as it is being developed.
- SS recommended we be in touch with City Council members often on this issue and that they would then direct the staff. RN indicated there are 2 council members we have been meeting with, and they have indicated they need to "hear from staff" on this issue before they can continue pursuing it with the city.
- Also asking for an information item on municipal fiber broadband might be another opportunity to get supporters down at a public comment period, to weigh in and lend a sense of urgency to the situation.
- The group discussed this would be a good thing for the City financially, and some wondered whether or not that was known, RN and MW indicated there were lease fees, from ISPs that would pay back the revenue bonds to deploy the network.
- PS referred to a connection fee as well, RN misunderstood and did say that originally the financial model was conceived as every homeowner would pay a small monthly fee to have the fiber access in town, either on the WSG bill or a property tax or some other. AR asked what had changed with regard to that funding model, and MW said he strongly felt that Prop 218 makes it much more difficult to get this done, where everyone is charged, because this

- becomes a special tax, and 2/3 majority is needed to vote it in, versus a simple majority,
- MW went on to indicate that the financing model could be arranged such that the deployment is paid back based on revenues collected from the users of the network, and enough should be “built in” the initial revenue bond proposal to make sure interest payments are covered while the network is built, deployed and grows to be able to see to these payments themselves.
- SS also made a reference to the Meter fee that is on the city utility bills, that was supposed to be for a fixed duration to cost recover on new water meter deployment some time in the past, yet that fee still remains on all water bills, and is just extra money for the city.
- At this point the group is still undecided and is considering all financial options to build this network. More details about financing options will likely be provided in any FSR about this project that gets generated.

- Fiscal Issues

- RN again brought up the issue of financial agency. DavisGIG is a citizen group, and not a formal organization, with a bank account, or operational charter. DCN has agreed to be a fiscal agent for this project, and DCN board members have developed an MOU draft for consideration that defines the Agency Agreement. SS was the only person who took a copy of the draft to review
- Since DavisGIG does not have a formal board, no one felt like they could be a party to a document, as liability was uncertain. So presently funds collected for the effort reside with DCN, although they are being tracked accurately, and separately for our use when available.
- MW indicated a local attorney, Elaine Roberts Musser might advise our organization pro Bono on the best way to organize ourselves
- SS recommended we put together a board of directors for the group, but did not give specifics as what that group would be authorized to do,

New Business

- Next PR Event; Lawn Signs

- RN stated that City staff asked for 3-4 Community Outreach events for Community fiber when DavisGIG reps had met with City Staff.
- DS recommended a larger venue, maybe library again, but hopefully larger with an anticipated target audience of maybe 100 residents.
- RN mentioned a middle/late September time frame, and perhaps a panel discussion with people from the community representing the stakeholders that would use the network, particularly, City Staff, DJUSD, and city of Davis.
- SS also mentioned that someone from the business community might be good as well. RN mentioned Bob Bockwinkel, a supportive and local, and very active Realtor might talk.
- SS thinks we should find a business person that could more directly speak to the benefits to their business that would arise from the network, and mentioned a possible example of having more complete, and real time inventories available for perusal at local shops.
- As far as lawn signs go – AR opined that we should keep the lawn signs on hold until an election cycle, because they will lose their novelty value otherwise.
- At this point, the group just needs to build a lot MORE brand awareness, to drive more support through the website to deliver the electoral success. RN mentioned the suggestions provided by Tim Starback, another member of the group, that signs would be sold as a means of fund raising, and there would be 2 types, one is an “ask me about...DavisGIG” and another is an “I support...DavisGIG”
- SF and MW mentioned that we would have a completely different set of signs at around election time, to overcome the lack of novelty there. At this point, we will look to a local business to order and print signs.

- Further Website Development

- The first phase of the website is doing a great job, of bringing this issue to the public’s attention and as a focus to our PR efforts. RN indicated there are some minor additions to the front page, but also some further elements should now be considered.
- SS suggested its time to have a links page on the site that has connections to other municipalities pages, as well as other good information. RN pointed out the wiki is a good

source for that, and suggested links down by the social media buttons to both the Wiki and the volunteer listserv (versus the announce listserv)

- RN will get a good technical and operational proposal document to link into the website.
- Its also time to start looking at the Google Maps Pro Engine again as another layer to the site. Using the database of email address and first and last name we have, we could email out to all the other members presently and ask them to return to the site to register with a username/password and to provide their address and tn contact information.
- Add a Google Maps page, a very powerful graphical representation for the city staff and council. Also very useful for further DavisGIG efforts.
- This will help us identify neighborhoods with strong uptake, and organize deployment plans to make this all more substantial.

There is sufficient interest. Next Steps?

- Due to the late time of this Agenda item, and the sense that enough action items had developed during the prior 90 minutes, this item has been postponed to the September meeting. It seems that making something happen on the FSR is the primary objective over the next time.
- GD brought up that Sarah Worley had agreed to work with us to develop this RFP, and that we should send her a letter mentioning that, and telling her we are ready to start that process.
- RN has indicated that he has met with some vendors, including Adtran, and mentioned an upcoming meeting with Fujitsu. The Fujitsu Sr Sales Manager has also shared a sample community-owned broadband FTTx Proposal, which happens to have the same structure DavisGIG proposes as the best way to operate this network and make it pay off. A copy of that on the wiki is forthcoming pending permission from the Sales Manager.

Adjourned around 8:15 pm