



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

ROOM 32 ▪ CITY HALL ▪ BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05401
(802) 865-7144 ▪ (802) 865-7142 (TTY) ▪ (802) 865-7024 (FAX)

www.cedoburlington.org

Minutes to the CD&NRC meeting on 1/6/10

Present: for the Committee: David Berezniak (DB) chair, Russell Ellis (RE), staff Larry Kupferman (LK)

Others present: from sign in sheet: Philip Baruth, Philip Lavigne, Greg Jenkins, Lisa Geisweit (BT), James Wemmette (BT), Al Levy (Summit Technologies), David Weinstein, Emma Mulvaney-Stanak, Lea Terhune, Sharon Bushor (coming early to the Ordinance committee meeting held immediately after the CD committee).

Chair Berezniak convened the meeting at 6 pm.

1) RE moved to accept the agenda with 2 changes: an update to the responsible contractor discussion from the last meeting, with a question if Norm Baldwin held the meeting with contractors to discuss building permit matters; several residents from ward 4 came to the meeting to discuss a proposal to have major developments proposed in a Ward to appear before that ward NPA.

DB seconded the motion with the changes to the agenda and so moved.

2) RE moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting; DB seconded and so moved.

3) Discussion “a laptop in every house” council resolution:

DB invited Al Levy, Summit Technologies, to offer his insights into the question of creating a “WIFI hotzone” within the Church Street Marketplace District, as the resolution calls for.

Mr. Levy provided some technical information concerning “mesh technology”; the challenge is to locate wireless access points strategically and aesthetically all of which would need a power source. He has looked at the Marketplace District and estimates that 2 nodes on each side of the block, and perhaps 1 on each side street would be sufficient to provide a district wide outdoor WIFI Hotzone.

Indoor units are available and would connect with outdoor units; the outdoor units would “bleed into” adjacent buildings but without providing an acceptable level of service for inside users.

Some concern was raised that the committee needs to understand the scope of the intent; there were differing expectations of what areas should be included: Church Street (outside), inside abutting businesses, side streets, City Hall Park etc.

Jim Wemette from Burlington Telecom described the BT hotzones (7 distinct sites) already existing.

Discussion ensued from the group:

DB: asked about fees vs free service

Phil Lavigne: asked about WIFI access in Contois now; it is free for current BT customers and a cost of \$5 for others.

Lee Terhune: public access is critical and should be made available to encourage civic engagement.

Philip Baruth: WIFI would be a draw to people to come downtown and use it any where (indoors or out); BT should do it as a service and a ty to the community; a good PR move.

Emma Mulvaney-Stanak: suggests contacting the Marketplace Commission and business partners to expand the model to include indoor spaces. She also suggested this model be used to expand WIFI access to other parts of the City.

Greg Jenkins: an outside Hotzone would be limited by the seasons but an inside system would be preferable to do it right.

Lee Terhune: equal access should be made available to everyone.

DB asked about levels and service and if there is a way to put a price on it: Jim Wemette described different levels of service based on encryption. He estimated that the indoor units cost approximately \$300 per and the outdoor units at \$1200 per plus labor to install and electricity to operate.

Mr. Levy described the WIFI option that Summit Technologies provides state facilities: it is monitored with tech support to resolve problems and is financed by a sponsorship method coordinated by a partner marketing firm which means access is available to all guest users from any internet platform. He thinks such a sponsored program would make the Marketplace installation successful and provide adequate and acceptable levels of service to users.

This ended the discussion; the Ordinance Committee was scheduled to start their meeting at 7pm;

4) Open Forum: Ward 4 residents Phil Lavigne, Greg Jenkins and Lea Terhune suggested that the Community Development and Neighborhood Revitalization committee take on the matter of major developments presenting to the appropriate Ward NPA during the permitting process.

No action taken at this time and the meeting adjourned at 7:15.

The next meeting will be on February 3rd; the committee wishes to start at 5:30 pm that evening.

