

Davis Gig Meeting  
an Ad-HOC Citizens Group

03/04/15  
6:00pm @ Sudwerk

Present

Larry Dieterich  
Jordan Van Aalsburg  
Lisa Charles Van Aalsburg  
Gary Darling  
Gonzalo Cabrera  
Taylor Buley  
Doug Walter  
Rob Nickerson  
Fei Li  
Todd Kaiser

- Recap of City Council meeting
- Round the table introductions
- Reiterate the goal
  - Want the city to get a fiber optic network throughout the city
  - Manage the physical infrastructure, for other providers to sit on.
  - City would be owner, that would work with local nonprofit to manage the network itself.
  - Citizens could get the choice of whatever ISP they want with hopefully very easy switching.
- Old business
  - Website
    - Thanks for getting it up
    - Gathering names and emails
    - Would nice to have someone who is responsible for the content itself
    - Rob volunteers himself, though, how does he update?
    - Nothing in place for an easy update.
    - Do word smithing in the google doc, then translate that over to the website itself?
    - Seems people are amenable to that.
    - Need to start moving more quickly now that the issue has been broached by LAFCO.
  - Content
    - (Rob) Don't need much text; but some video would be a nice way to reach people.
    - Point out all the places it is already happening.
      - Don't get left behind!
    - Short and sweet is nice, but it can take time to get down to the final product.
    - Keep the language positive; don't denigrate competitors
  - Use the existing wiki?
    - Mealtime collaborative is easier on the the Google Doc
  - Step on toes of LAFCO?
    - LAFCO person is already rather involved in our group, so we seem good there.
  - Any other website stuff?
    - No we're good for now

- Use Google Maps for website to show support
- Why LAFCO was involved? The local agencies have a fiber network, 2018 Comcast contract expires ("INet"?)... council said they want a business case for a community network in time for Sept 2016 in time for contract negotiations...
  - There are people motivated to get broadband in rural areas
- Need team agreement and governing structure of how to make decisions amongst ourselves...
  - Keeping minutes, making decisions, etc.
  - Traditional thing?
    - Have a nonprofit?
    - 501(c)3 probably not appropriate for this effort, given the kinds of participation
  - Agreement sounds nice, as a written-down way of who we are and what we're doing for new members
  - Mission + MOU?
  - Brown Act? Do our current meetings fall under that..?
  - There will be a task force at some point... how does that interplay with this group..?
  - Get our mission out there and keep it clean.
  - How does this effect subgroup meetings?
    - It's cool...
  - Things are starting to split off into side conversations...
  - Once we define things, we can get task force status...
- Start telling your friends and neighbors!
  - Start a meme; just say that Davis will get fiber.
  - Proposed time line?
    - It will indeed take a long time.
    - Comcast contract expiration is a good time limit and defined timeline...
    - The "Innovation Zones" could perhaps provide a toehold for getting fiber in
      - But, it is disconcerting the idea of greatening the digital divide
    - How do we deal with people being happy with what they have?
    - Yolo County Broadband Survey has positive support?
      - Can we get that out there?
    - Rob White seems to be vaporware when it comes to promises of community support.
    - There is a good role for downtown to have fiber, for the benefit of vibrant business...
    - Do we know what will sell this idea to people? No, but we have some good data via what LACFO has found (?) and from what is happening in other communities
    - Local control versus corporate control
    - Even a rural county in North Carolina is doing it.
    - Need to watch what we're saying on the public mailing list...
      - Is that a worry?
      - Strategizing?
    - What are advantages?
      - Researchers who work in this town who have large datasets can work on them at home...
      - Does the average person (in Davis) care about that?
      - On the other hand, things like Netflix in 4K are a selling point.
      - Okay, how about digital learning?
      - What we need is actual data and survey to know what people are interested in, in order to know how best to communicate the benefits and how it can help people in the areas they need.

- Rob met with cool guy, John Paul of Spiral Internet, who is getting a bunch of fiber built out...
- Capital Area Connected Consortium...
- Met people at an area meeting at Hacker Lab in Sacramento...
- DCN has expressed an interest to cooperate in this venture
  - e.g. putting together a white paper with information about community broadband...
- New Business
  - Meeting w/ City Staff
    - Council directly City Staff to reach out to our organization, LAFCO, university, etc.
    - Steve M. has already contacted Rob White and Sarah Worley about talking some time
    - Have lunch with city staff in some small group? E.g. 3-5 people.
      - People seem to be supportive
  - Would be nice to have videos on the website
    - Todd would be interested in composing some videos...
    - How to best direct one? Now would seem to be a good time.
    - E.g. ask the same question to everyone you find, and put those all together.
      - E.g. what would you do with faster INTERNET?
  - Videos 2 minutes or less, and as non-technical as possible
    - Todd has some background in animation, so that could be used to explain the concepts.
    - Logos? e.g. HorribleLogos.com
    - Todd will come up with some ideas
  - Given that this is a bigger effort than just ours, perhaps we can share resources with other groups who are doing similar work...
- Social Media
  - Yes

Adjourned around 7:15 pm