

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

November 5, 2007 1:30 p.m. CT – 4:00 p.m. CT  
Nebraska Workforce Development  
3020 18th Street, Columbus, Nebraska

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chris Anderson, City of Central City  
Norene Fitzgerald, Economic Development Professional  
Lynn Manhart, Central City Public Library  
Brad McPeak, AIM Institute  
Angie Ramaekers, Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce  
Rivkah Sass, Omaha Public Library  
Ted Smith, Norfolk Public Library  
Jerry Vap, Public Service Commission

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mitch Arnold, Preferred Partners, LLC; Jason Barelman, Wayne State College; Scott W. Bovick, City of Nebraska City; Don Costello, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; Linda Fettig, Rural Development Commission; Dean Folkers, Department of Education; Darla Heggem, Twin Cities Development, Scottsbluff-Gering; John Jordison, Great Plains Communications; Bethanne Kunz, Valley County Economic Development; Joan Modrell, Department of Labor; Michael Nolan, City of Norfolk; Caleb T. Pollard, Nebraska Department of Economic Development; and Dan Shundoff, Intellicom

**ROLL CALL--CO-CHAIR NOTICE OF POSTING OF AGENDA NOTICE OF NEBRASKA OPEN MEETINGS ACT POSTING**

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. There were six members present at the time of roll call. There was no quorum present to conduct official business. The meeting announcement was posted on the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar and NITC Web site on October 18, 2007. The agenda was posted on October 29, 2007.

**APPROVAL OF JULY 2007 AND SEPTEMBER 2007 MINUTES**

Due to the lack of a quorum, approval of the [July 16, 2007 minutes](#) and the [Sept. 24, 2007 minutes](#) was tabled until the next meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public contact.

NITC Commissioner Aerni was present and welcomed Community Council members to Columbus.

Brad McPeak and Lynn Manhardt arrived. There was still no quorum present.

## **ADOPTION OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL GOALS**

Ms. Byers thanked John Jordison, Angie Ramaekers, Darla Heggem, Dan Shundoff, Caleb Pollard, Bethanne Kunz, and Scott Bovick for their work in developing the proposed goals of the Community Council:

- Communicate needs that have been identified in communities to the NITC and other entities as appropriate.
- Promote technology available to communities across the state.
- Educate, share information, and be a resource to communities in Nebraska.
- Promote/educate what resources are available today to develop better community Web sites at a low cost.

The group discussed at length definitions of “communities” and “infrastructure”. Ms. Byers explained that she interprets communities very broadly to include municipalities and surrounding rural areas. After discussion, it was recommended to conduct community needs assessment. Mr. McPeak offered the assistance of the Aim Institute as a partner with this project.

Members present agreed on the goals as presented.

## **REVIEW NITC STRATEGIC INITIATIVES (ESPECIALLY COMMUNITY IT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC INITIATIVE)**

Ms. Byers reviewed the eight current strategic initiatives of the NITC:

- Network Nebraska
- [Community IT Planning and Development](#)
- eHealth
- Public Safety Communications System
- Digital Education
- State Government Efficiency
- E-Government
- Security and Business Resumption

Members recommended maintaining the Community IT Planning and Development initiative. Ms. Byers suggested renaming the initiative. Members felt that the current name was still relevant. Digital Divide was discussed as a potential strategic initiative but no decision was made.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The terms of the following members are up for renewal: Norene Fitzgerald, John Jordison, Chris Anderson, Lynn Manhart, Michael Nolan, and Ted Smith.

The Office of the CIO has not received confirmation from Mike Nolan as to serving again. The other members indicated their willingness to serve another term. Steve Williams, Department of Economic Development has resigned from the council.

*Election of Co-Chair.* Members were asked to give this consideration for the next meeting. Mr. Smith is currently serving as one of the co-chairs.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF WORK PLAN TO ADDRESS GOALS**

After a discussion, the group identified three areas on which to focus: assessing community needs, improving community Web sites, and identifying and disseminating best practices. Work groups were formed to further develop the action plans.

Community Needs Assessment: Brad McPeek, Norene Fitzgerald

Community Web site development: Angie Raemakers

Best practices: Angie Raemakers, Chris Anderson

Ms. Byers will solicit additional volunteers for these work groups and will schedule meetings of the work groups.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Byers recommended that members designate a voting alternate who may be able to attend meetings in their absence.

## **NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURN**

With no further business, Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:22 p.m.

Meeting minutes were taken Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by Anne Byers of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission/Office of the CIO.