Community Council
Monday, November 17, 2014 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon CT (8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. MT)
Lincoln: Nebraska Educational Telecommunications, 1800 North 33rd Street
Sidney Public Participation Site [NEB. REV. STAT. § 84-1411(6)]: —ESU 13, 1114 Toledo Street

MINUTES

ROLL CALL, NOTICE OF POSTING OF AGENDA, & NOTICE OF NEBRASKA OPEN MEETINGS ACT POSTING

Members Present:
Jay Anderson
Rod Armstrong
Randy Bretz
Jessica Chamberlain (arrived at 9:45)
Steve Fosselman (arrived at 9:40)
Phil Green
Dave Hahn
Charlotte Narjes for Connie Hancock
Connie Hancock (at Sidney public participation site)
Steve Henderson
Jacob Knutson
Megan McGown (at Sidney public participation site)
Holly Woldt

Members Absent: Pam Adams, Chris Anderson, Brett Baker, Norene Fitzgerald, Darla Heggem, David Lofdahl, Monica Lueking-Crowe, Marion McDermott, Joan Modrell, Jerry Vap

The meeting was called to order by co-chair Phil Green. Nine members and alternates were present in Lincoln at time of roll. A quorum was not present.

The meeting notice was posted to the Nebraska Public Meeting website on Nov. 4, 2014 and the NITC website on Nov. 7, 2014. The agenda was posted on Nov. 7, 2014. A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available on the table.

APPROVAL OF AUG. 25, 2014 MINUTES*

There were no corrections to the minutes. Approval of the minutes was tabled until later in the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

BROADBAND PLAN UPDATE

Anne Byers reported that the Nebraska Information Technology Commission approved the state broadband plan at their meeting on Oct. 28. The Governor's press office prepared a press release about the plan. The *Grand Island Independent* and *Lincoln Journal Star* published editorials on broadband. The *Grand Island Independent* editorial was more positive than the *Lincoln Journal Star* editorial. The plan is available online. No copies were printed.

Ms. Byers addressed questions regarding sharing the plan with the new administration. Brenda Decker will likely have an opportunity to brief the new administration and may share some information about the plan. State statute also stipulates that the Nebraska Information Technology Commission be chaired by

the Governor or the Governor's designee. In the past, the Lieutenant Governor has chaired the NITC. There will likely be opportunities to brief the new chair on the broadband plan.

Members asked if any legislation was needed to implement the broadband plan. Ms. Byers stated that the plan doesn't directly call for any new legislation.

Jay Anderson commented he would like to identify areas of the state that are underserved and work with them.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

With the arrival of Jessica Chamberlain and Steve Fosselman, a quorum was present. Jay Anderson moved to approve the minutes. Randy Bretz seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All were in favor. **Members present in Lincoln:** J. Anderson, Armstrong, Bretz, Chamberlain, Fosselman, Green, Hahn, Narjes, Henderson, Knutson, and Woldt. **Members in Sidney (non-voting):** Hancock and McGown. **Members absent:** Adams, C. Anderson, Baker, Fitzgerald, Heggem, Lofdahl, Lueking-Crowe, McDermott, Modrell, and Vap.

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF THE INTERFACE SCHOOL
Shonna Dorsey

Shonna Dorsey is a co-founder and the Managing Director for Interface: the Web School (interfaceschool.com). Interface was founded in January 2014 as a way to address the need for skilled web developers. In Nebraska, there are .62 candidates per web developer job opening. Interface offers an intensive 10-week web developer training program. The tuition is $7,000. Some scholarships are available to help with tuition. Short workshops are also offered on a variety of topics. Students include professionals transitioning to new careers, college students, and high school graduates seeking an alternative route to entering the tech field. First National Bank is sponsoring a group of employees. Program graduates have accepted roles from junior web developer to technical account executive with starting salaries ranging from $30,000 to $50,000 per year. Interface is partnering with the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Midlands on a youth developer training program. Shonna Dorsey also partners with Omaha Public Libraries to offer a free introductory workshop on web development monthly.

Connie Hancock commented that 4-H programs may be interested in partnering with Interface. Steve Fosselman from the Grand Island Public Library also expressed interest in a partnership.

MEMBERSHIP*

Phil Green moved to approve Shonna Dorsey's nomination to be a member of the Community Council. Steve Henderson seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All were in favor. **Members present in Lincoln:** J. Anderson, Armstrong, Bretz, Chamberlain, Fosselman, Green, Hahn, Narjes, Henderson, Knutson, and Woldt. **Members in Sidney (non-voting):** Hancock and McGown. **Members absent:** Adams, C. Anderson, Baker, Fitzgerald, Heggem, Lofdahl, Lueking-Crowe, McDermott, Modrell, and Vap.

NEBRASKA BROADBAND INITIATIVE NEXT STEPS

The Nebraska Public Service Commission's broadband mapping and planning grant ends in January. Project partners have begun discussing how to sustain some of the project's components. The Public Service Commission has found funding within its budget to continue the broadband map and Mobile Pulse data collection until the end of this fiscal year. Ms. Byers asked members for their thoughts and recommendations on sustaining and continuing some of the project activities.

Members felt that the broadband conference was valuable. The Younes Conference Center in Kearney has been reserved for October 28-29, 2015. Registration fees covered about one-third of the cost of the

conference. Utilizing local speakers, instead of nationally recognized speakers, would help keep costs down. Randy Bretz suggested showing free Tedx videos. Smaller, regional workshops are another option.

Phil Green asked what more at the municipal level can be done to support broadband efforts. There are several avenues that municipalities can pursue. Lincoln has leased duct in parts of town. Nate Wyatt from Gothenburg State Bank was a panelist at the broadband conference this fall. He talked about how community leaders worked to learn about broadband and developing a business case to present to telecommunications providers. Businesses and residences were surveyed to see if they would be interested in subscribing to broadband service. Armed with information from the survey, community leaders convinced Pinpoint to begin offering gigabit service in Gothenburg. Nebraska City issued an RFP for a provider. Some communities focus on helping businesses and residents understand how to use new broadband applications. The League of Municipalities and/or NACO may be willing to offer a session on broadband at one of their meetings if members request it.

POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

Anne Byers presented two ideas for possible action items which would support the broadband plan. Members of the broadband initiative have been working on a workbook for community leaders to help them better understand how broadband impacts their community and to help them develop a plan to encourage broadband development. This could be used as part of an outreach effort to communities. Based on earlier discussions during the meeting, there seemed to be an interest in this action item.

The second possible action item is to support efforts to introduce youth to coding. Anne originally envisioned a coding program in libraries similar to the summer reading program. However, this is probably not feasible. Last week, Anne Byers, Holly Woldt, Jessica Chamberlain, Steve Fosselman and Rod Armstrong had a phone call to discuss how to best involve libraries in coding and other digital literacy programs. The group decided that putting together a list of resources for libraries would be the best approach. Anne offered to help with training sessions to introduce library staff to Blockly or Scratch. AIM offered to share their playbook for putting together a Coder Dojo. Holly offered to take the lead on developing the list of resources and making it available on the Library Commission's website.

Here is a partial list of resources that may be included:

- Khan Academy
- Scratch
- Sew Electric/Lily Pad Arduino
- Made with Code
- AIM Coder Dojo
- Code.org
- 4-H Robotics and Wearable Tech Programs
- MakerCamp.org

The council was interested in working on both action items.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Members agreed to meet again in late January or early February.

ADJOURNMENT

Rod Armstrong made a motion to adjourn. Dave Hahn seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.