

COMMUNITY COUNCIL
April 18, 2008
9:30 AM to 12:00 noon

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rod Armstrong, AIM Institute
Scott Bovick, City of Nebraska City
Norene Fitzgerald, Economic Development Professional
Darla Heggem, Twin Cities Development, Scottsbluff-Gering
John Jordison, Great Plains Communications
Lynn Manhart, Central City Public Library
Tim O'Brien, Nebraska Department Economic Development, on phone
Gene Hand, Alt. for Jerry Vap,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris Anderson, City of Central City; Mitch Arnold, Preferred Partners, LLC; Jason Barelman, Wayne State College; Don Costello, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; Linda Fettig, Rural Development Commission; Dean Folkers, Department of Education; Joan Modrell, Department of Labor; Angie Ramaekers, Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce; Rivkah Sass, Omaha Public Library; Ted Smith, Norfolk Public Library; Dan Shundoff, Intellicom;

Staff and Guests: Anne Byers, Community Information Technology Manager; Steve Henderson, IT Administrator; Ryan McCabe, eHealth intern; Kit Keller, Nebraska Library Commission

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

The meeting announcement was posted on the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar and NITC Web site on March 26th, 2008. The agenda was posted on April 8th, 2008. A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available with the meeting materials.

Members present at roll: Rod Armstrong, Scott Bovick, Norene Fitzgerald, Darla Heggem, John Jordison, Gene Hand, Tim O'Brien on the phone.

APPROVAL OF February 6th [MINUTES*](#)

There were no corrections to the minutes.

Lynn Manhart arrived at 9:45.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Advancing Community Council Action Plans and Community Technology Fund

Community Technology Fund Update

Anne Byers informed the Council that \$40,000 is available in the Community Technology Fund that must be expended by June, 2009. Proposals must be developed prior to the Technical Panel's June 10th meeting.

Helping Communities Develop Better Web Sites

Mr. O'Brien discussed a [proposal](#) about community Web site development. The project would help communities create a comprehensive Web site where anyone can find news or general information about the community. The Web sites will be used to post jobs openings, provide community information, and recruitment information for residents and new businesses. Darla Heggem said that Jenny Overhue has critiqued Web sites. Her critiques are very thorough and helpful. The Council expressed an interest in opening up the project to regional efforts. They recommended that usability testing be included in the process. Council members stressed the importance of marketing the Web sites. John Jordison suggested including funds for communities to market their Web sites. Council members also stressed the importance of an organization in the community committing to maintaining the Web site. Individuals come and go, but organizations are more stable.

Assessing and Addressing Community Technology Needs

Tim O'Brien said online surveys would help us to know where the communities are at in their use of technology. The Council talked about a system to develop the survey questions. Surveys could be done without additional funding.

ACTION ON COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY FUND AND ACTION PLAN

Council members expressed support for proposed project. Darla Heggem and Norene Fitzgerald volunteered to help develop a proposal.

Promoting WiFi Access and Other New Technologies in Libraries

Michael Sauers, Nebraska Library Commission, gave a presentation on promoting the use of WiFi and technology in Nebraska Libraries. There are 272 libraries in Nebraska, and 170 are accredited. Mr. Sauers encourages libraries to increase the use of technology, including gaming, to improve services and attract patrons into libraries. Mr. Sauers also provided us with numerous Web sites that can be used for libraries around the state and for personal information databases.

Here are a few websites:

<http://blip.tv>

www.bloglines.com

<http://del.icio.us> - used for social bookmarking

www.flickr.com - used for photo sharing

www.slideshare.net – used for sharing presentations and slideshows

www.twitter.com - used for social networking and instant messaging

www.askalibrarian.org – online informational chatting

<http://www.travelinlibrarian.info/> - Michael's personal website

MEMBERSHIP

Bethanne Kunz and Michael Nolan have resigned. A recommendation was given by Scott Bovick for Phil Green from Blair as a replacement for Michael Nolan.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURN

The next will be May 12th at 1:30 p.m.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.