

Broadband Task Force Minutes

Task Force Meeting

2/13 - Thursday 4:00pm - 5:30pm

Convener:

Recorder:	Brian Sullivan – City Staff	
Present:	Rod Esch	Trent Howell
	Bret Naber	Bianca Fisher
	Amy Dugan	Jason Ogren
	Lavonna Longwell	

Excused:

Guests:

Lori Sherwood – Project Manager – Vantage Point Fred Diehl – Vantage Point

Agenda:

- Welcome
- Approval of 1/23 minutes
- Committee Actions
- Decision Matrix Scoring Review
- Discussion
- Recommendations and Next Steps
- Overview of Council Meeting
- Adjourn

Minutes:

- 1. Meeting called to order Bret Chair
- 2. Welcome
- 3. Approval of minutes 1/23
- 4. Decision matrix Slide reference see slide deck
 - a. P3 with someone like Allo was the overall choice of the task force
 - b. Model 1, 3, 4 were a close 2nd but a distant 2nd.
 - c. Quesiton about voting did everyone have #2 as their top choice.
 - i. Yes

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- ii. Some ties with 2nd & 3rd
- d. City ISP numerical came in #2 but 5 members choose working with the local ISPs
- e. Ranking was done by factors not just financial related
- f. Rod This decision could use further work to truly assess the viability of working with Allo.
 - i. Need to do due diligence
- g. Trent had to make decision based on assumptions
 - i. Need to view the deal before a final decision can be made
- h. Lavonna can we provide recommendations on what the contract should be based on?
 - i. Lori We are looking at just providing an overview recommendations
- i. Rod I would think that 2,3,4 would be worth reviewing more
- j. Trent Would like a discussion on level of importance of the decision factor
- k. Bret We want to rule items out and what is worth pursuing
- I. Rod Ruled out 1 and 5
- m. Rod #3 for example, we had some input from Comcast
- n. Rod Comcast sent an email to Bret/Rod about wanting to work with the committee.
- o. Lavonna Doesn't want to work with current providers
- p. Bret reads Comcast email will add to minutes:
- q. Jason Sounds like a defensive answer
 - i. Perception problem with Comcaset
- r. Rod Comcast does have an offer in the email and we should hold them to it
- s. Trent best way to push them is to bring in competition
- t. Lori Allo would be the new competition
- u. Bianca Can we take the next steps of reviewing the recommendation
 - i. Lori we would like to present the recommendation and offer to dig into that further
- v. Paul Group would continue as advisory position as we move into city negotiations with potential P3 options
- w. Trent recommendations
 - i. Can we make a recommendation with areas to keep in mind
 - ii. What details are we most concerned with as it relates to P3 partners
- x. Lavonna My concern for them or the deal, is it a low finical risk for the city
 - i. Comcast can they provide it equally across the City of Greeley
- y. Trent Fears
 - i. I do not believe the citizens will happy with their ISP don't want City of Greeley's name tied to ISP
 - ii. Cost for the program
- z. Rod City could come in without capital
 - i. Risks become amplified if we put in capital
- aa. Jason No reward without risk
 - i. City could own the middle mile
- bb. Rod Are doing it because it's a good investment or for another reason
 - i. What are we getting paid for it and is there a return?
- cc. Jason We should make sure the ownership of the core part of the network should be part of the partnership

- dd. Rod Is there a finical end to the middle mile
- ee. Michelle Can't we lease off fiber for the middle mile?

i. Lori - Yes

- ff. Bret P3 would require an RFP
- gg. Jason It is not Allo per sey it is the recommdation option that makes the most sense
- hh. Lori Very rare that a new provider would provide a letter like that to a community
- ii. Trent Greeley has been asked by Allo, but are there other companies that would provide other options?
- jj. Lori Other companies may be interested but their option may be a higher cost
- kk. Bianca Is the city required to put this out to RFP?
 - i. Lori It is a good idea for the City to put their preferred requirements
 - 1. This is what we'd like to accomplish and see what comes back from the market
 - 2. Communities sometimes put out a loose RFI doesn't go well
- II. Bianca Hard to evaluate when you don't know what else is out there
- mm. Paul Best practice would be for an open RFP
- nn. Scott Nothing stopping Allo from coming tomorrow to be a service provider
 - i. Allo is looking for partnerships
- oo. Rod Risk to city brand
 - i. Business initiative for the middle mile
 - ii. Give Allo the opportunity to buy into the middle mile but this should be separate programs so that there isn't branding overlay
- pp. Lavonna We would need to define the contract to define how and what the city is risking. How are those mitigated.
 - i. Partnership should provide some power to the City of Greeley
- qq. Lori You can't eliminate the risk
 - i. But do you step so far back that you don't show the benefits that the city made the right decision
- rr. Jason Inaction can have just as much risk for the community
- ss. Lavonna The general public is asking for competition
 - i. City will be a hero if we are able to bring in competition
- tt. Jason Do we have objective data to show that this is the right decision?
- uu. Trent Don't want to divest City of Greeley
- vv. Michelle caveat points mitigate risk
 - i. Capital investment should have value
 - ii. Do we provide them 'what is the problem'
- ww. Paul
 - i. City staff kick off
 - ii. Consultant
 - iii. Citizen recommendation
- xx. Trent Tax presentation
 - i. Staff will provide decision matrix
- yy. Scott
 - i. Scientific citizen survey has number one as lower price

- ii. Number two, would like to see a service from the City of Greeley
- zz. Amy Speaks to the fact that Greeley has a great reputation
- aaa. Jason How to address the pricing issue
 - i. Does the injection of competition address this issue potentially.
- bbb. Rod Allo did mention that incumbent prices usually drop 10-15% when they come in.
- ccc. Lavonna Speaking to friends about how her vision has changed on what she expected when she started.
 - i. Just have to explain to the citizens about what they really do want
- ddd. Renee
 - i. Sales tax increase would be spread over 10yrs and not over 1 year
- eee. Bret We don't want the city to take on the financial obligation to build and run this utility
- fff. Bianca We don't think this is beneficial to all the citizens and we need to compare all the other tax needs coming on soon. Thanks to Paul for showing those items that we need to understand
- ggg. Lori do you have the information to put together remarks

hhh. Bret -

- i. Discussion about what we have ruled out
- ii. Show the decision matrix and discuss
- iii. And is there a role for the committee moving forward?
- iii. Rod We have a role based on specific model moving forward
 - i. P3
 - ii. Grant
 - iii. Digital divide
 - iv. How to deal with some of the issues can be work that this committee can focus on
- jjj. Jason
 - i. Can some of these be associated with the P3 plan?
 - ii. Part of the negotiations can focus on some of these areas
- kkk. Trent
 - i. Can we provide and 'If / Then' statement
- III. Paul Council will not provide action at the worksession
 - i. Not going to respond to letter other than telling them we are going to RFP
- mmm. Lavonna Are we recommending the p3
- nnn. Bianca should be a little softer language
- ooo. Lavonna Don't want Comcast get involved in the processes that could impact the results
- ppp. Rod We should narrow down to the 1 recommendation
- qqq. Jason we have to deal with people that we don't want all the time
 - i. Comcast could step up to provide what the community needs
 - ii. We have a responsibility to listen to what Comcast could provide
- rrr. Lavonna Based on the survey the current providers have not stepped up in the past to address issues
 - i. Has a problem providing number 2
- sss. Trent Council members who are up for re-election will listen and make a decision
 - i. P3 is our recommendation

- ii. Mindful of key facts and happy to advise
- ttt. Rod Based on the information we have recommendation on where they should move toward
- uuu. Set meeting on March 4th at 4:30
- vvv. Scott define vote to recommendation
- www. Rod motion to develop presentation on recommendation that reflects purpose
 - i. Data imputs
 - ii. Work done
 - iii. Final recommendation for P3 steps
 - iv. Present at March 4th
- 5. Next Meeting
- 6. Meeting Adjourn Bret , Chair

Reference: Email from Comcast that Rod read from during the meeting:

From: Lehmann, Jon
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 3:39 PM
To:
Subject: [External]RE: Thank You - Conversation at Last Greeley Broadband Citizens Committee Meeting
Importance: High

Dear Mr. Naber and Mr. Esch,

First, congratulations on being appointed Chair and Deputy Chair of the Broadband Citizens Committee.

Second, this email is a follow-up to my email below thanking the Committee and encouraging the Committee to reach out to me directly with any specific address(es) of a resident or business who isn't able to receive our services and/or is getting unreliable service. Unfortunately, I have yet to receive a response or inquiry to that email so I am trying again.

As we discussed at the December 19th Committee meeting, Comcast would love to work with the City, the Committee and/or any Greeley resident on understanding exactly where there is a perception that we do not serve either a business or resident and any instance of unreliable service. In addition, Comcast is more than happy to continue discussions on any issue that any Greeley resident may have with us.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to present and discuss our products, services and serviceability (including, but not limited to, our Internet Essentials product – high-speed broadband to lower income residents – <u>www.internetessentials.com</u>).

Finally, congratulations again and I look forward to working with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Jon Lehmann Senior Director, Government and Regulatory Affairs <u>Comcast | Mountain West Region</u> 1899 Wynkoop St, 5th Floor, Denver, CO 80202 E: jon_lehmann@comcast.com O: 303.603.2062 M: 303.880.7032 Connect with us on Social: <u>Twitter | Facebook | Blog</u>

GIG-SPEED INTERNET | Comcast has <u>launched Gigabit-per-second internet speeds</u> across our Colorado service territory! We've also launched our new <u>xFi platform</u>, which enables Xfinity subscribers to better manage their home wifi networks. For more information, visit <u>xfinity.com/gig</u> and <u>xfinity.com/xfi</u>.