

TAG Meeting Notes (11.15.2021)

Morgan Damerow

Ginger Armbruster

Norman Dizon

Eleonor Bounds

William Downing

Ramsey Ramerman

Julie Kipp

Poppy MacDonald

Eric Stahl

Michele Earl Hubbard

Rowland Thompson

Agenda:

- Introductions (5 mins)
- Charter Review (10 mins)
 - Sent in in advance.
 - Aim: track input of group
 - Ginger to share slides
 - Positions for 3 members of the media
- Systems Review Team (SRT) Progress (35 mins) Feedback:
 - Michele: media needs from govt not only an understanding of what's going on but also seeking to build trust. People feel like there are excuses related to efficiency. IE Council decision into many minor agencies – public records requests go to various depts so it's unclear where to go to request actual record. Vast difference of opinion of what they are required/supposed to do resulting in violations of the law. Need systems in place to remove human decision making. Remove silo- ing and add autosave.
 - Eric: centralized public records for the City would help but could also pose some concerns. For something so big would need a civilian review board (accountability).

Scope of groups purview, I thought that the initial docs discussed policies. Is that in the purview of this group? Or is this a tech and process.

- Recommendations yes, but we are beholden to other existing policies etc.
- Poppy: from a higher level, is there any goal this committee would address re self-serviceable /accessible to get this data more publicly downloadable/accessible. No need to file request as an option.
- Ramsey- one of the challenges that the City has, to take into an account, individuals DO play a role in this. We need to understand that individuals do need to play a role in the process so need something scalable. IE records searching/exemptions. When it comes to records mgmt. there needs to be a way to get rid of spam as opposed to just save everything.
- Morgan: looking at goals and policy, we can always discuss what we think is going on. So, we need good information on how to do better with this. How is this scalable for 38 divisions? Where is the give and take for when we identify and issue. The system grew out of where it is.
- Rowland: Centralization is a great idea in terms of mgmt. and to build on what Ramsey said, need to have consideration of intake. Good to have things tagged and managed. Should consider rules around intake (saving info/tagging),

CHAT: Michele Earl-Hubbard (Guest)

Many agencies post all records for which they have received more than one request so they can just refer the next requestor to the previous production. The Public Disclosure Commission, for example, has a database that allows requestors to just go search and download certain documents without any human time for the response.

Julie to follow up

Michele: Department of Justice posts docs that have been requested a few times. National Freedom of Information Coalition (NFOIC) and Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press might have Best Practices and other 50-state reports that collect examples.

- Next Steps
- Set next meeting (Dec 16th)
- Do we want an hour and a half?

Best way to communicate re media invites: Ginger will send out via email and please respond directly back to Ginger.

Suggestion from Michele:

Media Reps -- broadcast -- Susannah Frame or Chris Ingalls of KING 5 investigators team. Print media -- one of the investigative reporters from Seattle Times. Would ask Michelle Matassa Flores for representative. You might also see if Toby Nixon would be interested in participating at some point. He is a tech wizard at Microsoft as well as a Kirkland City Councilman, former president of WCOG, and a former state legislator.

Ginger:

Structure to be different: will request input from the group.

Please add Keith Shipman to the list (reach out to Rowland)

Toby Nixon (Eric)

Ramsey: There are a lot of local blogs. I have worked with Kevin Schofield (kevinsch@sccinsight.com) at SCC Insights and Erica Barnett (ericacbarnett@gmail.com) at Publicola in the past for two suggestions. I think these new media requestors will have interests that could diverge from traditional media, and that would more closely mirror your average citizen.

Eric: For many obvious reasons the Seattle Times needs to be represented here. I've already discussed with Michele Matassa Flores; she's the right person to discuss with you the appropriate ST rep.

We also should have a broadcast news rep. Keith Shipman at Washington State Association of Broadcasters may have some ideas.

KUOW might also be a good participant – they're a frequent requester as well.

I can connect you with all of these folks and make an introduction if you like.

Norman: Hi Ginger. I would suggest a researcher or faculty member from the UW School of Journalism or Evans School of Public Administration who specializes in transparency and open government. I don't know anyone specifically, unfortunately.