July 9, 2024 Meeting - Seattle Community Technology Advisory Board

Topics covered included: Seattle IT Wireless Affairs update; committee updates

This meeting was held: July 9, 2024; 6:00-7:00 p.m., via Webex

Attending:

Board Members: Coleman Entringer, Omari Stringer, Phillip Meng, Isabel Rodriguez, Femi Adebayo, DeiMarlon Scisney, Lassana Magassa

Public: Dorene Cornwell, Carl Hiltbrunner, Ann Sumi, Alex Chirayath

Staff: Alice Lawson, Jon Morrison Winters, Vinh Tang, Tara Zaremba, Cass Magnuski

16 In Attendance

Vinh Tang: Everyone is not here yet, but we will start with the introductions, then Philip Meng can approve the agenda and May minutes and start the presentation. We always start with the introductions, so let's use that time now.

INTRODUCTIONS

Philip Meng: We have a short agenda today. We will start on getting a motion on approving the agenda from the last meeting in May. Can I get a motion from a board member to approve the May meeting minutes?

Omari Stringer: This is Omari. I so move.

Philip Meng: Do we have a second?

Isabel Rodriguez: This is Isabel. I second.

Philip Meng: Great! All in favor? All opposed? Any abstentions? Motion carries. Can we get a motion to approve the agenda for this meeting?

Omari Stringer: I so move.

Philip Meng: Okay. Do we have a second?

Isabel Rodriguez: I'll second.

Philip Meng: All in favor? Any opposed or abstentions? Al right. It's unanimous. Let's jump in. First on the agenda is Seattle IT's Wireless Affairs Update. Alice?

SEATTLE IT WIRELESS AFFAIRS UPDATE

Alice Lawson: Thanks for giving me the time to come and talk with you tonight. The last time I spoke with CTAB -- I looked back -- was May of 2021. It was about Broadband 101. We have come a long way since then in terms of comfort with what broadband means and how it all works. And the reason that I am here tonight is to give you some background on an aspect of work that is being done in the City, and has been really intensely for the last four years, that has to do with wireless connectivity throughout the City for our residents and our community enjoys.

So, why me and why am I called the Wireless Affairs Advisor. Back in 2019 and 2020, with the advent of 5G network rollouts, there was a tremendous amount of activity at that time, and pressure on our local government systems and resources around the potential permitting and volume of applications to deploy more small cells around the City that were going to come in. And we had an interdepartmental team that had already worked on telecom-related issues. But the decision was made that Seattle IT has a very clear long-standing focus on best in class, fast, reliable telecommunications for our community members, and that Seattle IT was the natural place to services the hub for activities. So, on my little slide here, I've got this bicycle, to show the hub and spoke perspective. And that's how we think about it in terms of interdepartmentally. So, I and Wireless Affairs are a single point of contact that takes into account wireless industry-wide interests. That's all of the different carriers and infrastructure providers that are involved in this ecosystem, as well as residents' interests, because while the industry has specific interests to get their systems out, to deploy services, and to make money with those services residents often have different interests when it comes to the aesthetics other concerns. So, together, as a City, we also have to think about our perspective with protecting our local controls in this area. Telecommunications, and specifically wireless, is very much dominated by the authority of the Federal Communications Commission, and we have very limited authority given to us at our local level about what we can say or do in terms of where wireless equipment goes. We just have the ability to make sure it's being put out in a safe manner, and it meets aesthetic standards, which we have the right to set for our community. So, for all of those reasons, with a single point of contact concept, Seattle IT has a web page, and it's a starting point concept for whether it's an industry member or a resident, if they're not sure about a question with a wireless concern in Seattle, they can come here as a starting point. Here is the link to that web page:

www.seattle.gov/wireless

It's a place where people can submit concerns, questions, complaints, ask for information. And often, I am at the other end of it. I get these things, and I can either help them, answer their questions, or I then help them to connect with the right department for what they are trying to do. So, that really makes for a much more seamless process for both our residents and our industry, and often for our department members, too, who sometimes are working with different wireless industry actors all the time. So, there are real efficiencies in dealing with this model. But truly, the real nitty-gritty work of wireless deployments in the City is happening in many departments across the City. So, I am that hub that is trying to help people to navigate it. Every day,

City Light, the Department of Transportation, SDCI -- all of these you can see listed on this slide. There are staff members that are interacting with the wireless industry in one way or another, related to rollout and construction of wireless-related facilities.

So, to give you some insight on how this works, when we get to City Light, they are a very key player in this space, because City Light owns all of the utility poles in the City. They co-own them with Lumen, but they have control and oversight management of the utility poles. And, that's a primary space which the wireless sector has been using to deploy small cells that have been enhancing the 5G and the 4G LTE networks around the City. And they also owns some other proprietary properties and towers and things like that, that the industry would like to use. It's such a substantial body of work for City Light. They actually have a dedicated team called Joint Use, and that team deals with both the wireless industry and the wire line industry. So, every day, that's all they're doing, taking permit applications to attach to City Light poles, and doing the work of evaluating the engineering of those poles to accommodate that equipment and facilities.

And the next big player is SDOT, the Seattle Department of Transportation. SDOT has authority over all of our roads and alleys and sidewalks, and other public rights of way in the city. And that has been a primary area focus for the wireless sector, because it is much easier for them to deploy the public right of way, where they have, basically, one owner/manager to deal with, rather than to try to deploy on private properties, where they have individual agreements to lease with private property owners. So, they do that, too, which I will mention later. With 5G, the vision very much was small cells on poles in the right of way. So, SDOT not only handles all of the permitting for using the right of way, but they are also the responsible department for setting the design standards for what these will look like that go on the pole. They have a very important office in the City, called Right of Way Project Coordination. And because there is so much that is going on at any one time in the City's rights of way, whether it is just interfering with the sidewalk, or digging up the street to put something in underground, they have to do a lot of advance work to try to coordinate all of the different players to make sure things aren't being obstructed for the moving public more than necessary.

The next one, SDCI, every day, they are the ones that are taking the land use and construction permits related to putting cellular facilities on private properties. So, that's on tops of buildings, and on the sides of buildings. The macro towers you might see in a parking lot next to a building, those all go through our SDCI Department. And they also have a crew of people that do electrical inspections related to that parking. Then we get to Seattle Public Utilities. While their towers around the City are a big asset for our wireless partners to use to attach their equipment, because they can propagate the signal so well, usually on high points. This picture that I'm showing here is of the Magnolia Tower, which all four carriers have equipment on that, so it has substantial use. And the good part is that SPU gets revenue for that. They assess some other proprietary properties, pieces of land, and things related to waterways, and things that they sometimes have carriers deployed. The Department of Neighborhoods gets involved when a carrier wants to do something in a historic district. And so we have

Pioneer Square, Pike Place Market, Ballard Avenue, Georgetown, Belmont, the International District, and especially districts where the aesthetic in that district is very, very important, so the carriers do have to get an authorization, permission, with a historic district coordinator before they can put something on a pole or a building in those areas to make sure that the aesthetic impact is minimized. And they heavily engage with us, as do all of these other departments when it came to developing those design standards that SDOT published. Our Finance and Administrative Services Department, it doesn't seem like they get involved in wireless, but they do, because they manage City buildings, and one of their biggest properties is the Seattle Municipal Tower, and for any of you who have been in the Seattle Municipal Tower parking garage in the last years, you've probably noticed a proliferation of panels and equipment along the edges, pointing towards I-5, pointing towards downtown., this picture is trying to show one of those panels. So, a lot of our wireless providers are attached to that building to get the signal out in and around that downtown core area. And then, FAS is the only department in the City that has a real estate assessor. And so, with that skills, if other departments in the City have their proprietary property and want to value it for a wireless carrier to deploy something, they can use FAS' support to get some market analysis for that. A big one that is somewhat temporary with a high activity area for the last four years, and it will now quiet down once the waterfront is fully developed in the next year, and that is the Office of Waterfront. I will talk about that a little more in a later slide, but they did a lot of work with industry to develop a custom integrated pole for specifically that area and a tremendous amount of civil infrastructure work in order to get the underground pathways needed to serve those poles. The Seattle Center has temporary facilities on the campus. So, when you're on the Seattle Center campus, and you're using your cell devices out and about on the grounds, that connectivity is coming from maybe the area towers, but also some supplemental antennas that the center has around through the carriers. They decided that they would like to have one unified, neutral system on the campus, robust enough to carry the campus into the future with the capacity needed for all of their peak events, so they have been working with the industry and a single host, Verizon, was the winner of that RSP and is going to develop one system in the next couple of years and build it one the campus that all of the carriers can ride on. And then lastly, Parks and Recreation. While Parks operates under an initiative in 1996, it was really clear that Parks should only be used for Parks purposes. They don't regularly allow wireless facilities to go on Parks property, but every once in a while, there is a need for temporary permits for a Seafair or something like that where carriers need to get something up in order to handle some peak load, that might come up again in the waterfront area with the piers that might come up during Seafair. So, you can see the variety of things that are going on at any one time in order on the back end for this wireless industry to have that seamless connectivity that we all enjoy with our sometimes best friend, which is our cellphones.

But with this, it is a heavily complicated process on the ground level. There is a lot of engineering planning and construction coordination that has to go on. These slides I'm showing here are a couple of examples of City Light poles. One is called a macro pole with those larger cannisters; the other is a small cell on the pole. You can see the amount of wiring and conduit and attachments to those poles that have to go on. This is

not an easy body of work. And I'm sharing this because one of the things we do as an interdepartmental group is to try to work together to make this process as efficient as possible for the industry while protecting our local interests, because we don't want the federal government to take more authority away from us, and basically just allow the industry to put things where they want, when they want and give us less control than what we already have. So, that's a real motivation for us and so far, we've had great outcomes with City Light, just poles that have a lot of wireless, they have to always be weighing all of the other users on those electrical networks. It's a big body of work for them. When it comes to construction and inspections on private properties, this is just one example of a building that has three antenna arrays hidden behind a side stair. But, as I'll show on another slide, the activity on private properties have definitely peaked in the last couple of years, and so there has been a lot of work for them to try very hard to make sure that these deployments are meeting the industry's needs for the propagation of that signal while also have minimal aesthetic impacts on the surrounding community.

Here are just a few examples of poles to give you an idea of -- we fight as a local government, to keep as much local control of this area as we can, because small cell deployments or any kind of construction in a local community is always very site-specific. So, depending on the context and the conditions in a certain neighborhood, on a certain street, on a certain building, they have to be considered. This isn't an industry where cookie-cutter approaches can work across the nation. And we're really happy with the interdepartmental work we've done, and the work we've done with our industry partners has kept a line of communication open. So, there hasn't been a lot of pressure, even at the State level, to push cookie-cutter approaches and to tie our hands here locally in Seattle.

I've been talking about what is going on behind the scenes to build these systems, and why they're so important, and the equity perspective that I want to share is because with us as the Seattle Digital Equity team, we know that our low-income residents often rely most heavily on mobile systems, or traditionally have. So, if they can afford one thing, it's going to be their mobile activity versus home broadband. And a recent statistic I got from our CityForm, which I think you are all familiar with -- it allows residents to go and have one place to apply for multiple programs, and learn about multiple programs that can help save them money. Fifty-eight percent of those users are accessing via a mobile device. And in our recent Seattle Technology and Adoption Survey, it was made clear that half of our community has both mobile and fixed broadband in their homes. But we have seven percent that are still mobile-only customers. And when we look at that grouping, we see that it's often the older adults, households living with a disability, people speaking other than English, BIPOC, and then Low-income residents. So, this idea of working with industry, keeping our eyes on how are these rollouts going and where are they going. It's important from an equity perspective to make sure that these residents who need this connectivity to do their daily work and educational and social activities, has great access.

So, how do we track that? Because we are talking about a relationship between local government and a private industry, we don't have authority over the private industry to

require them to give us detailed reports and all of those things. We work as we can to get views. And so, one of the things that we've done is we have taken information about the permitting on the City Light utility poles. That was the first thing we started to map out, because that was going to be the emphasis of 5G networks. This map shows you how those nodes are being distributed around the City, with the City's Race and Social Equity index map as a layer. This is what we look at biannually and when I have meetings with industry, I share this map with them to keep their focus on watching and looking for all of the areas, the highly disadvantaged areas and second highest disadvantaged areas to get those investments in and that connectivity improvement, too. But after a couple of years of just doing this map, we realized that actually the small cells were being used in a way to fill in coverage gaps in order to fill where there is a really high intensity of traffic or pedestrians or something like that that requires more capacity. There is also overarching capacity from towers and buildings and things like that, that have deployments on them. So, the second map was put together from data from our Office of Construction Inspections as part of property permitting. These are points where there have been minor telecommunications permitting life to date, because the assumption is if a carrier puts up something on a rooftop or a building, for the most part, it is serving that area. Definitely, some of these dots and these permits are change-outs and updates. there are a few de-commissionings in here as Sprint decommissions some things after being purchased by T-Mobile, but in general, again, it helps to see the distribution of the kinds of cellular equipment that gives wide area connectivity for residents. And to see the way the activity in these two areas have been changing over the last year, while utility poles in 2020 was the huge action area, and that was the beginning of 5G, where all of the carriers were going to put small cells on poles and use millimeter wave technology to improve coverage. In 2021, the FCC repackaged some spectrum, had an auction and carriers were able to buy different radio spectrum that actually works better from rooftops and poles to propagate the signal, and it was cheaper for them to deploy on private property often, than to do a lot of small cells on poles, which can usually only propagate the signal for a block. So, you can see how it has changed over time, and also to the volume of activity that the City has had in these areas to get infrastructure out around as people are moving about the City with their mobile phones.

To highlight the case study of the waterfront just very quickly for you, this is a unique one that we are especially proud of here in the City of Seattle, and that is the Office of the Waterfront's work, really dedicated work for the last three-plus years. with the industry to come up with a hybrid pole design, and to do that extra infrastructure work to integrate telecommunications into a waterfront plan and design that they had already been working on for ten years when telecom was not part of the consideration in the first years. So, when 5G came about, and they wanted to start working on the waterfront, the waterfront -- that train was way down the station about how it was all going to look, and the construction contracts and things like that. It was a lot of work for the waterfront, a lot of meetings, and it was collaborative, with Waterfront leading, but different City departments as well as all of the different carrier reps, to come up with one design that could match the aesthetic of what the existing waterfront poles had already been decided, so it would look seamless. This was a real win, because across the City,

carriers have different approaches to their wireless networks, and the kinds of equipment they use, the panels and the canisters and things like that can vary from carrier to carrier. At the waterfront, you will see, when you go down there to visit someday, some bigger, fatter poles. Hopefully, they're blending nicely overall, but those are what we call the hybrid poles, and as of May, we've already got 13 of them on-air. If you can imagine, besides just that pole there, there is a lot underground feeding the electrical and fiber to the pole, and that is the work that the Office of Waterfront had to incorporate into the existing construction contracts and their timelines. And they did a tremendous job with it all, so we're really proud of that project. And I'm proud of it, too, because as someone who is kind of a wonk for wireless stuff now that I'm in here, whenever I go to another city, I'm always looking around for how they do their wireless deployments. And I regularly see areas of cities that have different types of poles all around a certain area. It's really kind of a pedestrian or touristy type area. It always surprises me that they didn't try to find a more unified approach to it. So, I think we're unique this way with redevelopment, to have this new look.

And then, referencing back to what I mentioned at the beginning, Seattle Department of Transportation having the pole design standards: Another way we are trying to be current in this space is we set these design standards in 2020 in response to an FCC ruling that says, basically, this is what you can do. You can't tell the industry where they can put the poles, but you can tell them standards of how they have to look, dimensions and spacing and all of those things. So, after three and half years of those being in place, we had a team come together internally to say do we need an update? Would it help? We did that and it launched in April of 2024. Not a lot of updates. Kudos to those original rules for being really solid in the first place. But some of the key changes we are adding waterfront poles, which means that in the future, it is very clear to any carrier that comes into Seattle and says, "I want to put something on the waterfront;" if they do, they have to put up one of those hybrid poles to do it. And then we also added approval for a new option for a 4G/5G combined bracket. I know this is again getting kind of wonky, but the two pictures on the left of the tall, skinny ones are showing how now they have an antenna on the top, panels down below, in order to have that 4G/5G combo, But the new option, the one on the right, where they are all in one piece. And the important part of this is, aesthetically, it prevents all of the extra conduit lines that have to go all the way up to the top of the pole. For City Light, it also prevents them from having to work above the electrical space, so they don't have to turn off the power to put one up. So, it reduces outages; it improves safety for workers. So, just this one little design difference was an evolution that didn't exist in 2020. It was a real improvement that we incorporated that knowledge with the standards.

As we talk regularly with our industry partners around the importance of digital equity and trying to track ways that they seem to be reflecting the importance of the style. Recently, we had the panel with the Digital Equity Learning Network with their work, basically the turn-down of their portable connectivity program, and we asked and we had participation from Verizon, T-Mobile, and AT&T on the event. AT&T wasn't there, but they gave us materials to help share how they are going to help ACP customers wind down. And then Verizon: I know you all know participate with the Tech Matching

Fund grants and fund TMF grants for a few years now. And that began after 2020, when we talked about digital equity with them. And then, we had a recent win with Crown Castle, which is right now in the midst of a very large build-out throughout the City. They had lots of different areas of the City, so City Light and Crown Castle worked together to elevate the Hillman City Nodes, they're called, as their starting point for that plan, because the Hillman City is one of those areas that have been identified as a digital equity higher disadvantaged area. And then, T-Mobile, which was the long-term provider of hot spots for the Seattle Public Library worked with us for about four months on a possible solution for tiny home villages that would be an alternative to having multiple hot spots trying to serve one village, which caused a lot of maintenance problems. That project, for a couple of different reasons, didn't end up being the path we've selected. Instead, we're going to work with the Seattle Community Network with the villages. But T-Mobile was really dedicated in those conversations, and it showed again a commitment to the equity conversation.

And then, lastly, residents do contact me and let me know when there are dead zones in the City, something in their neighborhood or another problem, and in each case, I reach out, whether it's AT&T, Verizon, T-Mobile that they are talking about specifically, or if it's all of them. And all three companies have been very responsive about looking into it, talking with their engineering, letting us know if there is anything in their future plans to resolve those concerns, and then noting those areas as they are planning their engineering. These are ways where the industry has been a great partner for us in this space.

This is my last slide. We always want to finish with the challenges, current or existing or ongoing challenges. One is the downtown core. I mentioned at the beginning that the Seattle Department of Transportation has an excellent team that does project coordination. This map that I'm showing here and all of these points is from the project coordination team's map. They have anyone who is going to be working in the right of way enter their projects into the system, the concept being that other entities can come and look at this map, see when a road is going to be open, or a project going to be done, and try to get their work done at the same time. But it's a tremendous amount of work going on, especially in the downtown core and high density areas. And this continues to be a problem because our wireless carriers want to get more fiber optics down in the downtown core. It's crowded underground. It's a tough place to do work, and so it continues to be a challenging area. And besides downtown, just getting fiber to the poles where they have wireless nodes is an ongoing area of challenge for our partners, not only because of sometimes difficulty getting the aerials or getting underground, but it can be very expensive to run it with the restoration requirements we have here in Seattle. And again, that's just one of those balances we have to make between the integrity of our roadways and our sidewalks and getting these telecommunications systems out in a way that's going to keep up with the usage the community has. And lastly, a couple of times I've already mentioned that we are always trying to do good work locally, be a good partner with industry, so we have great systems but we can also help push back on federal pressure when the story at the federal level is that local governments that are the problem why systems aren't rolling

out fast enough. And we are hoping that by doing this, we can maintain local control over these networks in our community. Cities, counties and states cannot prohibit the deployment of these systems; we can't say where they're going to go; we can just make sure they're safe, are engineered right, and they meet our aesthetic standards. So, with that, any questions?

Omari Stringer: Yes, thanks for your presentation. I guess I have a question about how do you balance with the industry partners and try to dangle any incentives that you have to at least get them to understand the City's equity goals. So, we have this map. How do they respond to that? Does that usually end up with business interests and do they express any interest in wanting to align their deployments with racial equity, or is that something that you bring?

Alice Lawson: They do have those conversations. Where it has come up most is when they want to deploy fiber and they think they want to try an alternative construction technique to do that, that maybe isn't something that SDOT, for example might normally approve. We talk about can you do a pilot in one of the digital equity areas. That's a win because it is in the digital equity area, and it's giving a proof of concept to SDOT. Unfortunately, a lot of the cases where we started going down that road just didn't pencil out with the carriers. That's not where they needed to do a pilot. That's not where they needed a (unintelligible), or something like that. I would say the most important area where we talk about it with them is, is there something that they want to do a little differently, and could we use a proof of concept in a digital equity area. Of course, the balance there is we don't want digital equity connected to anything that is not well done, right? But of course, anything they are doing with industry is not trying to be something that is a problem, because they know that won't serve their purpose in the long run. So, primarily at this point, I think, as all of you know, this work is people. So, if these are companies and these are policies and at the ground level, it's people. And the people that we get to work with, the government affairs liaisons, the engineering managers, they all want to do good work. They want to City to be happy. They want to have good networks. So, a lot of times, it's just that, too. It's just working those positive relationships and trying to get people to encourage them and get them to try to work internally to encourage what we would like to have accomplished in the City. And I think some of that you can see. If any of you have had a chance to meet (unintelligible) from Verizon, who was their government affairs liaison. She was an example of that. As a person, she was a tremendous advocate for equity and got involved in the TMF program. So, she used her interest in this area to go back to her company and influence them. So, that's really some of the best influence we have. The people with the companies are good people.

Carl Hilbrunner: Thanks for the presentation. I didn't know about the dead zones and reporting that to Verizon. My question is about the infrastructure for the Seattle Center. I'm curious about that wireless infrastructure. Is it just for the center networks, or does that also supply the Seattle Center wifi networks, as well?

Alice Lawson: It's just going to be private cellular. 'The center is going to continue to have its own wifi. Seattle IT will provide the connectivity that the campus operations use. So, all of you with your private carrier phones that come on the campus and the service that the public receives. And Carl, my next slide will have my contact information. So, send me questions. That's what I'm here for.

Alice Lawson

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Dorene Cornwell: One question, and I'm not sure you are the right person to ask. I was browsing Senator Cantwell's web site recently for something else, and she has introduced a bill that would use the proceeds from some of the spectrum sales to shore up the Affordable Connectivity Program. Are you the person who gets to keep an eye on that legislation, and are you in a position to talk about whether that would have any impact on some of these areas that still need support.

Alice Lawson: I can tell you that I participate with the schools, broadband coalitions, who are really the best advocates I feel in that area, so that's the way we've done it so far in terms of spectrum and ACP, and NDIA for ACP, too. What I can tell you, Dorene, is everybody is desperate to find a replacement for the ACP, and the inside baseball for some of these national people who are up three talking with Congressional staffers and all of those people is they don't think these things are probably going to go very far. And part of the reason is the FCC spectrum auction money, everybody wants it. And a higher priority in some camps is 911 e-level line improvements. So, it's going to be a battle of one pie with a lot of great use cases. As of this pint, I'm just not hearing that a lot of people are feeling optimistic that this spectrum authority is going to be the solution. On top of that, for spectrum authority, first you get the authority, then you've got to hold the option, then you've got to get the money. That is so far down the road. We need to be faster than that for the folks who are on ACP. But yes, if you have questions about spectrum and all of those things, definitely I am the starting point for that. There's a great person, Shelby, with the New America Foundation whose eyes are on the front line of public interest on spectrum, allocations, auctions, CBRS, wifi, so you can always use her as a resource, too.

Dorene Cornwell: All right. Thank you so much.

Alice Lawson: I just want to wrap up by saying I had 30 minutes. You can imagine that there are a lot of different areas we could have talked about in the wireless sector. I specifically focused this time on the build-out, because that is one of the primary focuses I have, the industry side, the networks out there. But of course, we are building it so that people can use it, and that means peoples' service levels, their service options, their devices, all of those kinds of things. So, while my digital equity teammates are more focused on, low-income programs and some of those other kinds of things, like the Digital Navigator programs, because I'm on the team, we talk to each other. And where I can work with them in some way where there is intersectionality with the build-out or with industry players, I'm supportive and a team member that way. But again, the other side of the coin is who can afford, who can use them. I'm kind of surprised that nobody asked me a question about connectivity inside buildings, because we all know that that can be a real problem for some of our low-income residents in high rises where the connectivity -- the mobile signal is not really penetrating real well inside, and that's a whole different story. If anyone wants to come back with other specifics, I'd be happy to return with a different topic.

Philip Meng: I just want to quickly say, Alice, that was a really fantastic conversation. Thank you for coming back to CTAB to provide an update. I actually have a question, and it's more broad-faced. The Affordable Connectivity Program has sunsetted, and there are other things potentially on the horizon. The map that you showed tells a really striking story on equity that needs to be addressed, as well. So, my question to you is how can CTAB, how can the board make a difference? Granted that this is a very open-ended question but when I started a discussion on how we can play a role.

Alice Lawson: I appreciate that. One of the ways that you have already been helpful is by having your telecom panels, where you invite telecom representatives. including the wireless reps, to come and talk about the programs. So, that is keeping those relationships going with those local liaisons. Seattle is very interested in this. We really want them to work on it. That's important. When it gets to when we start having more action around maybe legislation at the federal level, we can maybe get with CTAB and have something. In the past, we had CTAB do resolutions supporting something, something like that. If we get to a point where a technique should be used that maybe some people are saying we shouldn't, or if we had a lot of push back from residents in a certain area, and start to see a pattern, that would be something else I think CTAB maybe could help with. I have often wondered, for example, in our Parks Department, they are such good advocates for protecting our parks for parks purposes. But I feel that there is a future intersection where a lot of people feel like being in the park and using their cellphones is recreation for them. Thankfully, we don't have that problem yet, but if it started to become a problem, we have parks with dead zones, and that's going to be a little bit of an internal conflict. And so, CTAB can ask how do we from residents what they really think about those kinds of things. And where are those priorities for technology and other forms of City's goals intersect. So, I know that is not super-specific, but I definitely will circle back with anything that comes up. And I would say that inviting industry members that talk about what they're doing is an important short-term role.

Philip Meng: Thanks for mentioning that the telecom panel is something that connects well into our next item, which is committee updates:

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Digital Equity Committee

Dorene Cornwell: I'm just waiting for Coleman Entringer to speak up. It's really good feedback to hear Alice Lawson on the telecom forums, because part of my question had been if there is something happening for the DELN, it's having CTAB do something redundant. It sounds like the answer is no. That's really important. Coleman is saying that he has technology issues. I can't remember what else we discussed at the DEI meeting, but ....

Philip Meng: I was going to say that that was a good summation. Why don't we talk about the forums as well as possibilities around this?

Dorene Cornwell: Yes. And thank you for the heads up on connectivity in parks, because that is definitely one of those things where people like having cellphone access. That sounds real good. And thank you again for the answers about looking for forums. Look for date in October or November. Anyway, that's what Coleman remembers, so thanks, Coleman, for putting that in the chat.

From Chat: from Coleman Entringer to everyone: 6:52 PM

Primary points were future forum -- currently tracking towards a date in October/November (same as last year)

Philip Meng: Following up on that, we were working towards a date this fall, as Coleman says, on the future forum. It is good to know that it is helpful and meaningful input. And we also had discussions this time potentially featuring different groups of companies, to include ISPs, as well, like Comcast or others. The entire group would welcome any thoughts on this. Anyway, that was the focus of our discussion and we're continuing to plan for projects in the second half of the year. If nothing else, are there any updates from other committees? Femi is online. Anything from the Outreach Committee?

Femi Adebayo: No. No report.

Philip Meng: Okay. Last item: Any items for new business? There are a couple of things I would like to bring up for comment. One is that we have had some discussion on the Digital Equity Committee about CTAB joining DELN, the Digital Equity Learning Network to allow them a seat at the table to better engage with community-based organizations. It's not something that's quite on the agenda yet, but I wanted to bring this up to board members as something we might discuss next time. The second piece is as we're building out agendas for the second half of the year, I want to circulate a

survey to CTAB board members, as well as any interested community members, on topics, potential speakers, and other items that folks would like to see on the agenda. I just wanted to give you a heads up that I will be looking to share that in the next couple of weeks. Any thoughts or questions on the above? If not, we should be on track to finish on time.

Dorene Cornwell: You probably know from the Seattle side what is needed. The DELN is really vocal about whoever wants to sign up to be on their mailing list. And I sort of naively assumed that CTAB folks might already be on it. I don't know if asking for some kind of money commitment, or some kind of commitment would be in order, but it's definitely worthwhile. It's also really important as far as which issues affect the City, and which issues really go beyond the City. I'm totally in favor, but I would encourage more -- if there is anything that they would expect from a body like CTAB, it would be good to know that.

Omari Stringer: The thing I would ask is to get an idea of the committee structures, as well. Maybe that is something that could be included in the survey. Maybe just think about it and throw ideas on where we maybe restructure, and think about what are the needs for our area, and what are the gaps, that we can consider tackling. Maybe looking at the FCC and see what they do. And then, the other point I had is that I'm thinking of some kind of gathering. I was unfortunately unable to make it to David Keyes' retirement party, but I think all of us should meet in person, because I don't think I have met any other persons, so I would like to see us get together as a group. That's something I would consider and think we all should consider it, as well.

Philip Meng: Absolutely! Okay, let's bundle these items together. I think, especially with a number of newer board members who will be joining us down the road, as well as the fact that it would be a great opportunity. Thanks, Omari. That's a really great idea. I totally agree. All right. We have an agenda ahead of us. Thanks, everyone. Dorene?

Dorene Cornwell: I stood my hand up one more time. One of the other things that came up in the DEI Committee was just getting to know the City Council, and what CTAB wants to have for them, because there are a lot of new people on the council. I know you said that you were going to follow up on that. But let's not lose that on our agenda. Thank you, everybody, for bearing with my need to talk more.

Philip Meng: Dorene, I 100 percent agree. We want to be a resource for City Council, for the City.

Femi Adebayo: One more thing to add to the agenda: We have a new CTO, so I think we should have some sort of meeting to see what his plans are for Seattle IT. That is something to think about.

Philip Meng: Absolutely! And Vinh Tang and Jon Morrison Winters, let's continue the conversation we've already basically started on finding an opportunity for engagement

opportunities with City Council and the CTO. All right. Thanks, everyone! Have a great evening. See you all soon.

ADJOURNMENT 7:01