

**INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2018  
2:00 PM  
SAN ANTONIO HOUSING AUTHORITY**

<b>Members Present:</b>	Councilmember Manny Peláez, Chair, <i>District 8</i> Councilmember Roberto Treviño, <i>District 1</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, <i>District 5</i> Committee Member Dirk Elmendorf, <i>Citizen</i> Committee Member Will Garrett, <i>Citizen</i> Committee Member DeAnne Cuellar, <i>Citizen</i>
<b>Members Absent:</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Maria Villagómez, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Craig Hopkins, <i>Chief Information Officer</i> ; John Rodriguez, <i>Assistant Director Infrastructure</i> ; Edward Guzman, <i>Deputy City Attorney</i> , Roger Gonzalez, <i>Office of the City Manager</i> ; Alicia K. Beckham, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
<b>Others Present:</b>	David Nisivoccia, <i>San Antonio Housing Authority</i> ; Jo Ana Alvarado, <i>San Antonio Housing Authority</i> ; Munirih Jester, <i>San Antonio Housing Authority</i>

**1. Approval of the minutes from the September 25, 2018 Innovation and Technology Committee Meeting.**

Committee Member Garrett moved to approve the Minutes for the September 25, 2018 Innovation and Technology Committee Meeting. Committee Member Elmendorf seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

Councilmember Viagran and Councilmember Gonzales entered the meeting at this time.

**2. Briefing on San Antonio Housing Authority digital inclusion initiatives.** [Jo Ana Alvarado, Director of Innovative Technology of San Antonio Housing Authority]

Jo Ana Alvarado stated that the San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Mozilla Smart Community Networks Challenge and was awarded a \$100,000 grant. She noted that they would utilize the award to provide broadband access to Cassiano Homes and to address broadband access to SAHA Communities. She added that the strategy was to increase internet connectivity for low-income residents using the prototype SMARTI Solar Mesh Technology.

Ms. Alvarado reported that SAHA completed an analysis of the prototype to expand connectivity. She stated that they had provided a budget evaluation to the board for cost effective implementation. She noted that they wanted to purchase more bandwidth that was capable of producing the best broadband. She added that they were seeking to forge partnerships with the City and CPS Energy to bring more digital equality to SAHA Communities.

Committee Member Cuellar suggested that SAHA Staff seek rural technology as an option to expanding broadband width.

Committee Member Garrett asked of the total cost to build the SMARTI. Ms. Alvarado stated that the cost was \$1,000.

Councilmember Gonzales suggested that there not be limitations to internet content. Ms. Alvarado stated that there were limitations because SAHA had to manage the broadband usage.

No action was required for Item 2.

**3. Briefing and possible action on the results of the City's research findings on a Council Consideration Request from Councilman Manny Peláez related to net neutrality and open internet access. [Craig Hopkins, Chief Information Officer]**

Craig Hopkins reported that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) had released the Net Neutrality Order on January 4, 2018 following the adoption on December 14, 2017. He stated that it required Internet Service Providers (ISP) to enable access to all content and applications without favoring or blocking products or websites. He noted that there was preemption on state and local measures that invoked rules to repeal the Order. He added that Chairperson Peláez submitted a Council Consideration Request (CCR) for staff to provide recommendations on the City's Net Neutrality and Open Internet Access Policies.

Mr. Hopkins stated that the 2018 Order required that ISPs publicly disclose network management practices, including network congestion management, application-specific behavior, device attachment rules, and security practices. He noted that the City's procurement telecommunication contracts with Charter Communications and AT&T Internet Services disclosed that they would not block, throttle or prioritize content used by the City to provide services and information to residents. He noted that the contract specified that the open internet connections were free or subsidized services that the City offered to residents. He mentioned that staff proposed to continue to actively monitor net neutrality and ensure that the City negotiated the best possible internet access terms when contracting for broadband internet access services.

No action was required for Item 3.

**4. Briefing and possible action on digital inclusion and municipal broadband. [Craig Hopkins, Chief Information Officer]**

Craig Hopkins provided a briefing on creating digital inclusion and activities that guarantee that all individuals in the City had access to information through connectivity. He stated that the FCC considered that the minimum broadband was 25 megabits per second (Mbps). He noted that 40-60% of the City had 10 Mbps or less. He added that in the Texas Utilities Code Chapter 54; a municipality or municipal electric may not offer telecommunication services for sale to the public.

Mr. Hopkins reported on the alternative methods that the City used to deliver internet connections for residents:

- Wi-Fi Connectivity in 14 parks
- Wi-Fi in 12 community centers
- Wi-Fi at all the libraries
- Library provides 2.5 million computer sessions a year
- SAHA-Digital Literacy Passport
- Partnership with HULU to provide \$15,000 to the Digital Inclusion Alliance
- City Council Grant for Digital Inclusion Fellow at the San Antonio Public Library

Chairperson Peláez stated that VIA Metropolitan Transit provided free Wi-Fi services at their transit centers and on their buses.

Committee Member Cuellar suggested that the City present policy recommendations on net neutrality, open internet access, digital inclusion, and municipal broadband during the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session.

No action was required for Item 4.

**5. Briefing on SmartSA Initiatives: Update on Digital Kiosk implementation and Innovation Zones community input.** [Jose De La Cruz, Chief Innovation Officer]

It was the consensus of the Committee that Item 5b be addressed through staff memo.

No action was taken on Item 5.

**Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,*



*Manny Peláez, Chairman*



*Alicia K. Beckham,*  
*Office of the City Clerk*

