



**MINUTES
TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION - REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025, 4:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

The meeting convened in regular session in the Government Center Chambers at 4:15 p.m., Tuesday, March 25, 2025. Vice Chairman Duvvuri called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Gary Neumayer	Chairman	Present
Ravi Duvvuri	Vice Chairman	Present
Robert Davis	Commissioner	Not Present
Arron Pirtle	Commissioner	Not Present
Brandon Wheeler	Commissioner	Present

Public Comment

Individuals wishing to provide emailed public comment must email comments to publiccomment@cityblm.org at least 15 minutes before the start of the meeting. Individuals wishing to speak in-person may register at cityblm.org/register at least 5 minutes before the start of the meeting.

No public comments were submitted nor were any to present in person.

Consent Agenda

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are approved with one motion; Items pulled by Council from the Consent Agenda for discussion are listed and voted on separately.

Item 4.A. January 28, 2024 Minutes, as requested by the Information Technology Department, N/A. (Recommended Motion: Review and Approve the minutes of the January 28, 2024 meeting of the Bloomington Technology Commission.)

The minutes from the January 28th meeting were reviewed. Chairman Neumayer made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, which was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion passed.

Regular Session

The following item was presented:

Item 5. A. Discussion on the subcommittees on Smart City technology

Craig McBeath initiated a discussion regarding the subcommittees on smart city technologies, specifically public Wi-Fi and digital signage, which were identified as top initiatives for the downtown area in previous meetings. The commissioners had been requested to collect information on technologies, successful community implementations, and other relevant feedback.

Craig noted that there had been minimal feedback from these subcommittees. He raised the question of whether to reform the subcommittees to redistribute tasks and encourage progress. He explained that with five commissioners, subcommittees are limited to two members to prevent a violation of the open meetings act. Craig suggested options for overseeing the subcommittees or other ideas for gathering information. He emphasized that this initiative stemmed from prior discussions aimed at making more educated decisions.

Commissioner Wheeler asked about the discussion regarding reassigning subcommittee members. It was explained that the reassignment aimed to regroup, refresh, re-evaluate priorities, and accommodate a new commissioner. The possibility of focusing efforts on one or two initiatives with more than two people involved, or including the smart parking initiative (the next highest priority), was also mentioned.

Chairman Neumayer stated an interest in the digital signage subcommittee and recalled being on it with Aaron Pirtle. Commissioner Wheeler mentioned personal travels over the past year and a half to two years, during which observations were made in cities like Peoria and St. Louis regarding tourist visitor information, noting that most places use geocaching smart apps, with fewer utilizing kiosks.

The conversation acknowledged the concerns that prompted the subcommittee discussion, particularly regarding the relevance of digital signage and public Wi-Fi in an era of prevalent smart devices and data plans. Questions were raised about whether the cost of standalone kiosks or digital displays is justified compared to leveraging smart apps or mobile sites and public Wi-Fi.

Chairman Neumayer shared that some preliminary work had been done and was willing to share his findings. Travels to about a dozen cities were mentioned, with personal reliance on city websites and Google Maps on a cell phone, and infrequent need for public Wi-Fi due to readily available unlimited data. While St. Louis was noted as having positive reports on their systems, few other cities visited were observed to utilize them extensively. Commissioner Wheeler also expressed interest in the smart parking initiative.

It was clarified that the subcommittee's deliverable is a recommendation based on information gathering to inform future decisions. The goal is to demonstrate due diligence and consideration of available information.

Subcommittee Assignments and Deliverables

The following subcommittee assignments were confirmed:

- Digital Signage: Commissioner Wheeler, Commissioner Pirtle, with cooperation from Chairman Neumayer.
- Public Wi-Fi: Commissioner Duvvuri, Commissioner Davis.

A deliverable for the next month's meeting was set as a draft report from each subcommittee, including a potential case study of at least one example community worth replicating. It was emphasized that this is for information gathering and not final recommendations. Commissioners were encouraged to contact other government entities for information, highlighting the cooperative nature of the public sector. However, they were advised to refrain from directly contacting companies at this stage due to procurement guidelines.

Old Business

New Business

Executive Session

Adjournment

Chairman Neumayer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Duvvuri,

Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

ATTEST