

**Syracuse MetroNet
Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, December 15, 2017
8 AM, Syracuse Technology Garden
235 Harrison Street**

MetroNet Board Members, Visitors and Staff Attendance:

Brian Barboline - Vice-President - E	Kevin Sexton - Secretary - √
Dave Prowak - Treasurer - √	Murali Venkatesh - E
Meg Backus - A	Matt Mahoney - √
Bill Murray – President - √	Mike O’Neill - E
Shaun Black - E	Ron Walter - √
Joe Ziemba - A	Larry Page - √
Sam Scozzafava - E	
Andrew Cramer - A	
Nader Maroun - E	

() - Individuals listed in parenthesis after Board members indicates a representative who attended in place of that board member

√ - Indicates Board members, visitors or MetroNet staff personal that were present

A - Indicates Board member that was absent

E - Indicates Board member that was excused

Meeting Notes:

1.) Welcome and Introductions

Bill Murray called the meeting to order at 8:17 AM.

2.) Motions

Bill Murray asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 20th Board meeting as presented.

Motion: Dave Prowak made a motion to approve the Board meeting minutes as presented for the October 20th Board meeting, and Matt Mahoney seconded the motion.

The motion was carried.

Dave Prowak reviewed the MetroNet Revenue Less Expenses report as of November 30, 2017 and reported total revenue for the year to date of \$84,696.34 versus a budget of \$90,355.00.

Mr. Prowak further reported that cash on hand at the end of the month was \$117,096.41. Accounts Receivable stand at \$15,770.54. These include 2017 Baseline Fees due from Syracuse University and St. Joseph’s Hospital as well as Internet service fees from St. Joseph’s Hospital, Crouse Hospital and Marriott Syracuse Downtown. The fees from St. Joseph’s and Crouse are expected to be paid shortly.

Bill Murray asked for a motion to approve the MetroNet financials for November 2017 as presented.

Motion: Matt Mahoney made a motion to approve MetroNet financials for November 2017 as presented, and Kevin Sexton seconded the motion.

The motion was carried.

3.) MetroNet Technology Report

Ron Walter reported that when our most recent Smart Net contract expired in October, Larry Page contacted Jim Murray of ePlus and found out that the Smart Net contract could no longer be renewed. Rather than looking elsewhere for a maintenance contract, Bill Murray suggested that we purchase two modules for the Cisco 6506E to have on hand. Mr. Murray reported that he has priced these two modules and found them on Amazon with one costing \$95 and the other \$241. Mr. Walter stated that we also have the old 6506 in the cabinet as a backup in case of problems with the 6506E. He also stated that he would order the two modules later in the day.

3.) MetroNet Project Development

Wireless Connectivity for Non-Profits – Ron Walter reported that he still has not heard back from the Syracuse City School District regarding whether or not we could use the District's backbone to provide Internet service to the Somali-Bantu Center.

Mr. Walter also reported that another option is to connect Huntington Family Center to the Internet via a wireless link from St. Joseph's Hospital's West Side Clinic in the next block. Brian Barbolline has said that this probably can be done but he wanted to make sure that they had the proper security in place before giving the go ahead. Mr. Walter also stated that he has a list of non-profit agencies that are in line of sight distance from MetroNet locations and he agreed to send that to Bill Murray for further analysis.

Free Wi-Fi Initiative – Bill Murray reported that he had again surveyed the current coverage area of the Free MetroNet Wi-Fi locations and was able to see all the County and City access points. Ron Walter stated that the access point in Clinton Square operated by NYSERNet is not identified as being part of the MetroNet Free Wi-Fi network. Dave Prowak stated that he would contact NYSERNet about changing that SSID.

Tech Alley Initiative – Ron Walter stated that he had sent out the draft of an overview on the Tech Alley Initiative and has developed a list of questions to be answered about the project going forward for review by the Board members. He added that we have talked about a lot of these areas in our past discussions but have never arrived at a specific set of directions. For example, in regard to our partners, is it safe to say that those are CenterState CEO and the City of Syracuse? Dave Prowak stated that he believes that the City will be a partner but determining the degree of commitment from the City at this point will depend on the new Administration.

As for identifying the building owners who would be willing to participate, MetroNet hosted a focus group among building owners a couple of years ago and got little participation. However, Mr. Walter has contacted additional building owners individually and several have been very interested. One key owner who has expressed interest is VIP Structures which owns the Pike Block plus two other buildings along Salina Street as well as the Syracuse Newspaper building. In fact, VIP Structures contacted him last week about getting connectivity for the Newspaper building. Another building owner is Joe Hucko who owns the building on South Warren Street where the Syracuse Media Group is located. Still another is the building on South Salina Street owned by QPK Design. Vince Nicotra has expressed strong interest in finding additional connectivity options. Mr. Walter also recommended that we send out letters to all the other building owners about the initiative to raise their awareness and possible interest in the project.

Mr. Walter stated that we need to figure out how to develop a budget for the project. The only cost we have so far is a rough estimate of what it would cost to pull fiber through City owned conduit. This does not include any cost estimates for building fiber into the buildings. Dave Prowak does not see the building owners paying for running fiber into their buildings. Kevin Sexton stated that we also need to identify ISPs who could provide Internet connectivity and perhaps issue an RFP.

Dave Prowak stated that for the test of the wireless system offered by OmniMesh, he would most likely be using the traffic signals to mount the access points. Bill Murray stated that if you are going to use the OmniMesh wireless system and if that system can deliver one Gb of bandwidth as they say, all you need is access to the building rooftop to mount a wireless antenna and run fiber to a closet within the building. The Internet service could then be

supplied from an antenna on a high building such as the State Tower Building. We could also probably use other taller buildings within the Tech Alley footprint. This of course is based on the system operating as advertised. The rooftop antennas could then connect to other antennas in a mesh configuration. Mr. Murray added that all we need is one or two building owners to allow us to put antennas on their buildings and we could start building a high-speed wireless network. The wireless solution could be much more cost effective than running fiber to each building.

Ron Walter reported that we met with representatives of OmniMesh two weeks earlier about using their system. They explained that they are currently in negotiations with a possible large partner and therefore were not able to reveal any of the technical specifications of their system until after the first of the new year. They did however clearly state that they did want to work with us. The advantage of working with OmniMesh versus other wireless providers is that their system offers very high bandwidth.

Dave Prowak explained that Cogent currently offers the lowest price on Internet service and we could strike a deal with them and get our system up and running very quickly. We of course could also send out an RFP but that would take more time. He further stated that Rick Clonan of the Tech Garden is very interested in setting up a sandbox in the area around the Tech Garden to test the OmniMesh system. Ron Walter stated that he is doubtful that we would be able to test the bandwidth we are looking for in the sandbox since the test will be fed using the current limited Northland bandwidth supplied to the Tech Garden.

Mr. Prowak added that he will be meeting with representatives from the State Tower Building as part of a City of Syracuse project and will ask about a price for roof access. We will need to pay for a mast on the roof as well as a fiber run to the roof. Bill Murray stated that for a proof of concept, you could mount a mast on a tripod with a bunch of cement blocks. In that way you would not have to construct anything permanent on the roof. This would enable us to reach a couple of the buildings whose owners have expressed interest as part of the proof of concept. We would need to run fiber to some location in the State Tower Building and connect it to a switch. Dave Prowak stated that this would require the purchase of some equipment at both ends, the hiring of a couple of electricians and the purchase of Internet service. He stated that he would contact Cogent about supplying Internet on a short term basis for this test. Bill Murray stated that if we cannot use the OmniMesh system, we can investigate the use of other wireless systems such as Ubiquity with whom he has experience.

Following further discussion, the Board agreed to move ahead with the proof of concept and obtain the information needed to set up the test.

Ron Walter stated that while a wireless solution may enable us to connect some buildings within the Tech Alley footprint, we still have to create a fiber network if we want to create a highly reliable high-speed network. Our initial estimates for building such a network was at least \$1 million. We need to reconnect with Rob Simpson and CenterState CEO to see where they stand on the Tech Alley project. Dave Prowak suggested that we wait until the new City administration is installed. We should focus now on getting the wireless network up and running. Bill Murray added that if he can provide 200 to 500Mb of reliable Internet service via a wireless network at a reasonable price, we should have a successful first step to building the Tech Alley. Dave Prowak stated that while that would be a good start, a Tech Alley to him would be the availability of at least 1Gb of bandwidth. To be a game changer, we need to have speed and price. With the need for increased storage for today's applications, high bandwidth is becoming a must for most businesses.

Ron Walter stated that many of the questions on his list of issues still need to be discussed, so he will continue that as an active list.

Educational Opportunities – Ron Walter reported that he and Nader Maroun recently met with Meg Backus to find out more about the classes for youth that are being offered by the Onondaga Public Library. Mr. Walter is exploring what other communities are currently doing to offer coding and related course to area youth.

5.) Next Meeting Dates

The next MetroNet Executive/Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 19, 2018 at 8:00AM.

The next MetroNet Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 16, 2018 at 8:00AM.

6.) Motion to Adjourn

Bill Murray asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Matt Mahoney made a motion to adjourn the meeting.