



Document #2:

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Zoom Meeting: September 13, 2023 – 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Invited: Brian Anderson, Theodore L. Chandler, Jr., Libby Dozier, Cliff Fleet, Wilson Flohr, Moses Foster, Thomas R. Frantz, Nancy Grden, Greg Gilligan, Ross Grogg, Mitch Haddon, Bob Holsworth, Sarah Jane Kirkland, Aubrey L. Layne, Peggy Layne, Christopher Lloyd, John W. Martin, John F. Reinhart, James Spore, and Bryan Stephens

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome and Minutes Approval: August 9 EC Meeting Minutes
2. Convergence 2023 Planning Discussion
3. GIH Initiative Update
4. Other Priority Updates – Rail, Trail, and Government Relations
5. Board Member Update and Vote:
 - SouthState (Robert “Bobby” Cowgill)
 - Gold Key | PHR (Bob Howard)
 - PRA Group
 - Cox
6. Old Business / New Business

Welcome and Minutes Approval: August 9 EC Meeting Minutes

The EC unanimously approved the August 9, 2023 EC meeting minutes.

Convergence 2023 Planning Discussion

- Agenda – The most recent copy of the Convergence 2023 agenda was reviewed and discussed.

GIH Initiative Update

- Draft Global Internet Hub Digital Asset Map – John Martin and Greg Gilligan provided an update on the Global Internet Hub Digital Infrastructure Map. This map will be printed and distributed at Convergence 2023.
- Global Internet Hub Council Operational Plan – Highlights from the July 24 Global Internet Hub Council Core Planning Team meeting were shared with the EC, along with the Global Internet Hub Council's operations plan that will guide the Council's purpose, structure, funding, and ongoing operations.
- PCs for People Concept – John Martin gave an overview of the PCs for People program. Several large companies from Richmond to Hampton Roads, county managers in the Richmond region, and the City of Richmond mayor have all reviewed this possible program and encouraged us to invite PCs for People to make a formal presentation. While this program will be self-run and will not be managed by RVA757 Connects, it does support the Global Internet Hub Strategic Plan. Our organization will introduce the organizers of PCs for People to leaders across the megaregion.

PCs for People has a proven track record in 10 other markets. Families that have been helped through this organization have experienced upward mobility. Services include refurbishing computers, training people on how to use them, and providing free to low-cost access to high-speed internet services.

Initial funding to start up this program is \$800K. PCs for People claims the organization has proven to become self-sustaining after two and a half years.

Next Step:

- Set up a meeting to brief megaregion leaders on PCs for People.

Other Priority Updates

- Rail – RVA757 Connects' staff met with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) and the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) to work on the next 5-year plan. RVA757 Connects included the Planning District Commission in this conversation. RVA757 Connects will continue meeting with DRPT and VPRA in formulating the plan. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 21. Updates will be shared at Convergence 2023.
- Trail – Staff is working with Sports Backers on the development of a strategic white paper that will serve as a thoughtful project overview that can be shared with the Administration and other stakeholders. This paper will make the case for ROI on bike trails.



- Government Relations – Ross Grogg and Chris Lloyd provided an update on the status of the state budget. Future planning by the Government Relations Committee will start after the budget is approved.

Board Member Update:

- The EC held an in-person vote followed by an email vote with the following individuals approved:
 - SouthState (Robert “Bobby” Cowgill)
 - Gold Key | PHR (Bob Howard)
 - PRA Group (Giovanna Genard)
 - Cox (Nneka Chiazor)

Old Business / New Business

N/A