

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

JUNE 4, 2012

(DRAFT)

The Open Providence Commission for Transparency & Accountability meets this day at 5:30 o'clock P.M., in Committee Room "A", Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Chairman John Marion; Vice-Chairwoman Karina Wood; Ms. Elaine Collins; Mr. Nelson Rocha; Mr. Andrew Law; Ms. Pamelee Murphy; Ms. Anna M. Stetson; Ms. Lisa Fries; Mr. James Silveria and Mr. Paul DiCecco – 10.

ABSENT: Mr. John F. Speck; Mr. Jim Lucht; Mr. Allan Tear; Ms. Pamela Cardillo and Ms. Felicia Ingram – 5.

Also present are Toby Shepherd, Deputy Policy Director, Mayor's Office; Chris Kingsley, Senior Associate, Data Incentives, National League of Cities; Jay Rosenfield, Clerkbases and Tina L. Mastroianni, Assistant Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIRMAN MARION: For those of you who don't know, Jeff Padwa designated Lisa to be his designee on the Commission so that she can participate as a Commissioner and welcome.

MS. FRIES: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MARION: You came to the public engagement session and I think some prior meetings to that so.

MS. FRIES: Yes.

PRESENTATION BY CHRIS KINGSLEY, THE SENIOR ASSOCIATE FOR DATA INCENTIVES, FROM THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

CHAIRMAN MARION: So, hopefully you're up to speed as much as any of us are. So, thank you everybody for who came two weeks ago and spent two or

three hours at that public engagement session and for coming tonight. I want to start out because we have a guest by giving the floor to him so that he can move on to other things if he needs to. And it's Chris Kingsley.

MR. KINGSLEY: Yes.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Who is from the National League of Cities and is here for two weeks.

MR. KINGSLEY: Two weeks. From last weekend until this Friday. I've – your hospitality so far.

CHAIRMAN MARION: And so if you want to, yeah I've got a chair for you there, if you want to share with us a little bit about.

MR. KINGSLEY: Thank you all. I didn't really prepare any remarks but I wanted to be available as a resource. I'm sorry about my voice, I brought a head cold to Providence and it took to your weather like nobody's business. I'm working with Angela Romans for these two weeks on, sort of, unrelated business but had a conversation with Matt Jerzyk he mentioned some of your work here which, I'm looking forward to hearing more about today. And I mentioned to him that the National League of Cities has been engaged by the Knight Foundation to do some work in a few committees really looking at civic engagement bright spots. And one of the communities that we ended up spending a great deal of time in, I think, with their enthusiasm and with ours as well is Philadelphia. And I don't know how many of you are familiar with the Open Access Philadelphia work that's been underway there for two or three years, does that ring any bells? They, just as a real quick recap, I guess two or three years ago they created a table a lot like this one where their Chief Innovation Officer began pulling together mostly representatives of the community, a few city agencies. About a year along they decide the focus of their efforts should be on a, sort of, open data portal as a very tangible first product of that group. They launched that during the first Philly Tech

Week which, I believe, was like April of 2011 which was quite successful. And then like momentum picked up from then, the second Philly Tech Week was just April of 2012 a couple of months ago and that was created with an Executive Order from the Mayor which, had a number of provisions but it, sort of, endorsed the sharing of data by every city department, asked them if they would each create a catalogue of the data sources that were open within those departments and convened a group of people to create a process by which that would be made available not only as, sort of, a data dump but also so all of those would be connected to an API. Because the intent was to, sort of, make it very easy to develop applications on the back of public information. So, I don't need to give you a great deal of overview and I don't know how much, you know, you really wanted here but I had jotted out just a few lessons from their experience and I thought either now or in the future I'd be happy to be a resource and share some of their process because I think bears on at least some of your mission here at the table.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay. Can I ask what, in terms of, so I assume Providence is a member of the National League of Cities, it's a service organization, like –

MR. KINGSLEY: It is.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- some sort of national conference of –

MR. KINGSLEY: We do federal relations, we represent the forty-nine state municipal leagues and then we have an agency that does work directly with Mayors and mostly their senior education advisors on various issues.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay. And you work directly with Philly on this?

MR. KINGSLEY: Yeah, we're profiling their work as part of a broader study for the Knight Foundation.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay, great.

MR. KINGSLEY: So, there'll be a case study drafted up, probably ten to fifteen pages over the next couple of months, at this point there's probably just a three page summary that I can share with in draft form as long as you, you know, don't circulate to the world. But you might be interested. So, if that's the easiest way to, sort of, share that information that's fine.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay. Can you point us to – so, Philly you said two years ago had some sort of Commission or some body that reviewed, do you know if they issued some sort of report or some –

MR. KINGSLEY: They have never, to my knowledge, issued any formal roundup of their work.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Oh, okay.

MR. KINGSLEY: Ours will be the first case study that I'm aware of.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay.

MR. KINGSLEY: If you're looking for information on the progression there's a joke that they have their own rolling stone in Philadelphia which, is called Technically Philly. It's, in large part, a William Penn and Knight Foundation supported blog but it's, sort of, a very purposeful blog that covered the development of this community. Not only the government work but also, kind of the, the venture funded, info tech communities development.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay.

MR. KINGSLEY: So, that's a good resource.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Great.

MR. KINGSLEY: And I do understand that you put in an application for Code for America fellows here?

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, in fact, I'll invite –

MR. SHEPHERD: Sure.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- Toby Shepherd to share some news about that.

MR. SHEPHERD: Sure, sure. So, hi I'm Toby Shepherd, I work in the Mayor's Office.

MS. STETSON: Toby, can you move in please so we can hear you. Thank you.

MR. SHEPHERD: Good news from Code for America. So, they had twenty-nine cities apply to host fellows in the summer of 2013 and they're now at the place where they have that number and Providence has moved on to the second round. So, it's really exciting. Basically, they and we are both doing our due diligence in terms of sort of reviewing the scope of work and terms and conditions and that kind of stuff. And we also have entered this phase now where we can start doing some fundraising and demonstrate that we have the financial resources to bring them on, if we actually a city that gets to host Code for America. But that's the update and we're excited about it.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay, thank you. Chris, can I ask, the Knight Foundation, I'm fairly ignorant of what the Knight Foundation does and funds? But is this something that – is it an open funder? Or is it a Pennsylvania funder? Or is it a –

MR. KINGSLEY: So, they're national –

CHAIRMAN MARION: Oh, they're national.

MR. KINGSLEY: -- yeah, I'm trying to think, I'll probably give you a fairly poor overview of their work. But, you know, they come from the newspaper community – and they were active because the newspaper was published in eight cities. And so, each of those eight cities they still have more of a footprint and they have a director of programs in each of those. Although, their scope is a little bit broader than that. Philadelphia is one those cities, I don't know if Providence was.

CHAIRMAN MARION: No.

MR. KINGSLEY: But, they're based out of Miami and it would be worth keeping an eye on some of what they're publishing in this area certainly. Because they do have a biased towards journalism, of course, and also sort of technology enabled civic engagement strategies is something that they get really excited about.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay, great.

MS. MURPHY: May I?

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yes.

MS. MURPHY: Could you give us an example of some of the data sources that are in this catalogue.

MR. KINGSLEY: Sure.

MS. MURPHY: And did you add them as a result of your consulting with Philadelphia? Did you add data sources that didn't exist before for the public?

MR. KINGSLEY: So, I should be clear that we didn't consulting with them except on as much as we profiled their work. But, I can tell you about how they got started because it was a good lesson. They struggled for a long time around questions of legality, process, what they, you know, could share from a public standpoint. And eventually the gentleman who helped break that roadblock had been a public employee but was actually working for a company Azavea which developed, if you're familiar, the open data Philadelphia portal. Which is now open source and absolutely anybody can download and use it, I think it's a really wonderful tool. And he said, you know, begin by celebrating what you already have, there are already a whole mess of GIS layers which were in excellent shape, just a little bit of work had to be done to make it ready for public consumption. The Police Department had just recently begun publishing point level data on part one crimes, I'm sure some of it was redacted but most of it was pretty solid. And then I believe they had some pre-111 call center data as well. So, those were the big three that they started with for the launch just to have something there. And

pretty quickly one of the things they built in, and I thought this was a lesson worth emulating to this tool which, I believe is part of the open source distribution, were some social features so that residents, non profits, anybody who have interest in this could go online and suggest data set they'd like to see and then they can be bid up by the community. And the first thing which, was people should've expected to be bid up was the transit information from SEPTA, the local authority there, which, had been very slow up until that point. Although they had the data in releasing it to developers like Google to do any of the kind of transit mapping that we're all sort of used to now, and so when that got bid up it was a great leverage point for people within SEPTA, who knew it existed and was essentially ready for release to say look, we really want it. So, SEPTA came on board as the fourth major data set and they've been adding since then. One of the other key points, and this might be a decision point for cities that are doing this work, is their, because this was launched essentially by a private firm with a lot of in kind labor they've continued to host it as a service to the city and that's allowed them to include a lot of non public data. So, if every block or other private sources of information are available it can be sort of harvested and published they'll just go ahead and do that. And I think there would probably be legal, if not, only administrative issues with the government, you know, wanted to take direct responsibility for third party resources that way and when I asked about this, I think, you know, it was unanimous everybody felt as though it should remain a public/private partnership for that reason. In terms of getting, I guess, maybe one other story that relates to how you begin to add information to this, they did hit a wall at a certain point where the easy stuff had been published and the really popular stuff had been published and now they weren't having a lot of traction with the city departments and the CIO has a lot to do with – side from open data, right. So, they with the support of the William Penn Foundation which is the, you

know, city foundation there they ran what they called an open data race with a fairly nominal amount of money, I think it was \$5,000.00 or \$7,000.00 dollars, they said we'll award, sort of, a top two applications and we'll make a commitment if you can tell us what the data that you want and what you do with it and you get the votes then we'll work with the city to release that. And they worked with a program officer at William Penn because everybody would return his emails, who emails, you know, thirty or thirty-five non profits within the city and said if you're interested why don't you suggest a piece of, a source of data for this contest and what you would like to see us do with it. They got twenty-five submissions they, I think, went with twenty and then they spent a month or a month and a half encouraging people to vote on this. So, they got a couple thousand extra users and what they ended up with was a ranked list of kind of community priorities for releases of data. And it was everything from National Student Clearing House data for secondary success of students in the city to the location of bike racks and I think the prevalence of bike thefts, it was all over map, right. But, it was a huge boost, it went from being something that the kind of IT and in crowd knew about to something a lot of non profits were excited about. And then they took that list back to the CIO and said, you know, here are the top, you know, fifteen or something, what do you think, we know the community really wants these. And that was the derivation of this executive order which the Mayor then issued eight or nine months later.

MS. MURPHY: I just had a follow up question; what were some of the arguments against adding data bases?

MR. KINGSLEY: I think a lot of the data isn't necessarily very accurate or very good. And there's also just, I've heard institutional bias, you know, it's been such a long time where the only way you're going to get in trouble is if it got out, right. The idea that, you know, there's a bias to share as opposed to the opposite is

really alien. Probably one of the larger difficulties and they're working through this in Philadelphia right now is, you know, the data's fine but it usually does need to be interpreted and so you have to provide enough context and meta data that you're not just giving somebody a spreadsheet and hoping they know what to do with it. So, there's a process of documentation which I think people do need to be mindful of. And so that's probably, I'd say it's going to take a year, that's the expectation between the issuance of the executive order in April and the point at which most of those ten to fifteen data sets I mentioned will be ready as API's through the open data portal. All things considered fairly rapid though.

MS. MURPHY: I have just one more question.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Mmm hmm.

MS. MURPHY: Was it a skills problem among city employees not knowing how or not somebody supervising them how to take the data and create it so that there weren't these fears of doing it wrong or?

MR. KINGSLEY: I don't know. It probably varies from data set to data set. I could speculate, I know in some departments, yes they were just sitting in access data bases that nobody knew what to do with and used in a very prescribed ways. In other cases I think that the city staff knew perfectly well how to publish that data, they didn't feel authorized to do it. So, I think it varies.

CHAIRMAN MARION: In the executive order, did that – that laid sort of the groundwork for – did it lay a policy for what type of information public?

MR. KINGSLEY: I can share it with you here –

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay.

MR. KINGSLEY: -- and I'll send you copies, an electronic copy if you'd like to send it out to the list.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, that'd be great. Thank you.

MR. KINGSLEY: More than anything else it was an endorsement of the general idea –

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay.

MR. KINGSLEY: -- but it also made some specific evidence to create a data committee, that wasn't specified who would sit on it but I think that Philadelphia is probably similar to this group, they already knew each other and a lot of the folks sitting at this table are already entrepreneurs, business people and from the private sector. They have a very fraternal kind of you can call each other up and have a beer kind of relationship and that really is how they've developed a lot of the enthusiasm –. And maybe just as context, you know, I'd be remiss not to mention they have this whole notion of civic fusion there which they're very excited about and I realize that we're looking at civic engagement perhaps more than is the mission of the Commission but they said, you know, one of the important lessons was that it wasn't as though government just sort of created a platform for non profits and residents to show up and publish and use data but it was really that a lot of folks within government went out to the collaboratives, the co-working spaces and the entrepreneurial communities where these conversations were happening and what app development was being done and learned quite a bit about rapid application development from that community. And it's how the Mayor's endorsed it throughout, the Mayor was showing up at hackathons a year and a half ago to shake people's hands and just say, you know, we love the idea of what you're doing here.

CHAIRMAN MARION: And is that what Philly Tech Week is? Is that a series of hackathons or what is it?

MR. KINGSLEY: It's an awful lot at this point. That happens, they do random hacks, they do game development, they also do venture capital funding rounds and all manner of things, it's a whole – it's huge at this point.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Wow. Do they have interest in a defunct video game manufacturer over at Empire Plaza?

(Laughter)

MR. KINGSLEY: They – it did come up in Technically Philly the other day. I think they were talking about at least trying to filter a few developers out of Baltimore and Providence.

CHAIRMAN MARION: They got a lot of people they're trying to grab talent.

MR. KINGSLEY: I'm sure they'd be happy to speak to you, Jeff Friedman is the contact within City Hall and the gentleman at Technically Philly I can put you in touch with as well, they're good –.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay, Nelson.

MR. ROCHA: Yeah, did they create an Ordinance as well on the Open Government Director? Or was it just an executive order?

MR. KINGSLEY: I don't know that they had an Ordinance, that's a good question. I don't think they do yet. I know that Councilman Green who's one of the leading, sort of, voices on the City Council is a big supporter of the work but I don't think they have anything formal.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: You've probably covered it in what you said but one of the – I think the main thing we're grappling with now on the Commission, we've been here a few months, and it's where do we begin and how do we not try and take on too much. Because, you know, this is the first foray into, you know, what we've discussed previously as a Commission is picking maybe three things that we could suggest to start off an open government process that were achievable in the immediate term. And I wondered if you could share any lessons from Philly on that, you know, how did the team there – what did they start with?

MR. KINGSLEY: I think what Jeff would say is that they started with discussions of principles which went on about thirteen months too long.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Thirteen months, okay.

MR. KINGSLEY: Initially, he really started with a group of people that was, it was kind of an affiliation group and he didn't have a clear, this is Jeff Friedman in the city, invited everybody to the table but didn't have a clear scope of what he wanted done there. So, they started saying can we brand the city as Open Source Philadelphia, what would that mean? The people from IT pushed back immediately for all kinds of good reasons as you can imagine. It wasn't until – they settled on Open Data Philadelphia, this portal as a first product and I think that was really smart because people get frustrated, of course, with discussions of principle after a point. That's still, that and the expansion of that is still probably their largest success. They also have in Philadelphia and I don't know what the corollary would be here, they have like a broadband initiative and they have federal funding that's building computer labs and really focused on connectivity to relatively disadvantaged populations which is an important that gets missed sometimes in these data discussions. And I think that they're moving towards figuring out how to use that as a platform for application development around things like literacy and workforce development. That's a heavier lift and I don't know how successful they'll be but that's probably a next step on the staircase.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, that's happening at the state level here right – OCEAN, is it, I think that's the name, where that sort of stimulus money seeded this broadband role out. So, and we really haven't encountered that, as a Commissioner, discussed that. Jim.

MR. SILVERIA: Well, it's a network that's under construction today that placed some fiber across the state, but we haven't had anything lit for us yet. We have several nodes within the city that will be on that network for city

communications, as well as, you know – network communications. But, it's under construction, a lot of people are anxious and hopeful to get it up and running.

CHAIRMAN MARION: And, so but the city government will be able to take advantage of it, not just residents?

MR. SILVERIA: Yes.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Because I thought it, it had something to do, it's tied into the library system too isn't it?

MR. SILVERIA: I believe so, yes.

CHAIRMAN MARION: All right. Does anyone else have any questions for our guest?

MR. SILVERIA: One other question; in addition just to making data more available has Philadelphia or other cities you've worked in done anything in making government in general more accessible? Like, say improving communications or making government processes more available?

MR. KINGSLEY: I know that they're very, Philadelphia in particular, is very proud of their social media outreach but I don't feel like I can speak to it terribly effectively. Jeff Friedman could and probably would if you gave him half a chance. They, you know, like Providence they have a stat program, theirs has been reinvented again from the last year or so. And so I think they view that as an important alignment of the Mayor's budget goals and the way they communicate those out to the community at large. But, you know, it's a good question and I don't have a great answer for you.

MR. LAW: You mentioned twenty non profits what were they involved with?

MR. KINGSLEY: Oh, gosh, it was such a mix. Some of them were kind of recreation folks, the Bicycle Coalition believe it or not was a huge one and they have an amazing distribution list so they were a good partner as it turned out to that

effort. The Philly Notebook is kind of an alternative journalism organization which is funded to follow the public schools, I think they won the contest. If you go to I think it's opendataphilly.org they still have a page with all of the winners, it has the organization and then the specific application they proposed which is kind of interesting to look at.

CHAIRMAN MARION: There's a lot here, it sounds like we just need to bring Philadelphia up here and reproduce what their success has been because this sounds like a lot of what we've heard about, particularly about you mentioned they have a stat program and they were able to – I mean, I assume that was some of the data that's been tapped as part of the –

MR. KINGSLEY: Less than what I would've expected.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Oh.

MR. KINGSLEY: You would think there would be more correspondence there, I'm not sure that there has been.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Oh, okay.

MR. KINGSLEY: They have, well we can talk offline, they have several systems and they communicate to different degrees.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Oh, okay.

MS. COLLINS: Do you know that Philadelphia if they modeled what they did off of any other cities in particular? Were there any cities that they examined that they kind of used –

MR. KINGSLEY: I would say they didn't unless you want to look at Washington, D.C. had one of the first kind of apps development contests which New York picked up on in their Bright Light. And then San Francisco is really big into co-working – community. I wouldn't of thought that these conversations were linked to the whole tradition of co-working, are you guys familiar with the term? It's kind of – I think it is a term of art but it's the notion that you get having open

architecture office space, like an open format office space where people will rent desks. The value not so much that you got a desk and an internet connection but that you're surrounded by other people youngish entrepreneurs that are doing different business development. So, when it comes to – funding, when it comes to navigating city systems there's usually somebody to your left or your right that you can tap for expertise. And that's actually a lot of the interesting civic work and energy which is then sort of worked its way into government has come out of that community in Philadelphia. I don't know what it looks like in Providence but if there are spaces like that here they're wonderful people to engage.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, we have, like, a tech incubator and the head of that sits on this Commission but he's not here tonight –

MR. KINGSLEY: Ah.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- unfortunately, Allan. There are a couple of tech incubators but I think – sort of the big headline grabbing one is called Betaspring.

MR. KINGSLEY: Okay.

CHAIRMAN MARION: He's in charge of that. So, there is – that does exist as I understand.

MR. JACOBSON: It's not a co-working thing though.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay.

MR. JACOBSON: It's an incubator for start ups. So, the box office would be the one kind of –

CHAIRMAN MARION: Oh, okay.

MR. JACOBSON: And the other ones, yeah, there's a couple of others that went on – there hasn't been a real successful model.

MS. STETSON: Can we have his name please?

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, sorry.

MR. JACOBSON: John Jacobson.

MR. KINGSLEY: So, the two other things I might just offer really quickly as lessons; one is, you know the question about how you just ultimately add something both to the city as a whole and to city government is a good question and I don't know that Philadelphia has all of the answers but one concrete thing was that in specific instances like the transportation authority but they have some others that are similar, they would point to they would say these were organizations that we're in the business of developing, not only maintaining the data, the accuracy, fidelity and timeliness of that data but also developing a front end interface. And that is makes no sense for some of them to be in that business anymore given how quickly operating systems and mobile interface has changed, that Septa now just maintains the data, other people scan it and then they charge a buck ninety-nine for the application. And that whole ecosystem operates much more quickly with much greater value to people than Septa trying to contract for services and do it that way.

CHAIRMAN MARION: And Septa is?

MR. KINGSLEY: Sorry, they're the transportation authority.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Oh, okay.

MR. KINGSLEY: The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay.

MR. KINGSLEY: And the other one and I've mentioned this to Toby but Code for America was a very big deal in Philadelphia and it was such a strong endorsement of the city's work in this area, the cities that haven't spoken to Mark Head who's the Director of Government of Relations, the cities that have been more frustrated with their engagement with Code for America seemed to have tried to plug them in around more enterprise level application development and it hasn't, so far, I think been super successful. But, where they've been used as kind of ambassadors to the community there's been a tremendous amount of buzz about

the program and a lot of people that they've sort of brought into the effort. So, it might be worth thinking about how plug fellows with very different backgrounds and sometimes not a great deal of experience in government into essentially a government led program.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay, thank you.

MR. KINGSLEY: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Thank you for your time, that was great.

MR. KINGSLEY: My pleasure.

REPORTS OF SUB-COMMITTEES:

- A. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**
- B. CURRENT PRACTICES**
- C. BEST PRACTICES**

CHAIRMAN MARION: So, I put together this agenda with Karina, we talked about some of the priorities that we thought we needed to get others to discuss here as we regroup after the public engagement session. And so you can see some of the things we can talk about, some of the quorum problems we've had with the sub-committees, the idea that maybe this Commission, it technically expires at the end of this month, maybe possibly trying to ask for an extension. And then I just also included an item about the mandate so if we need to have any more discussion about where we're headed in trying to narrow this like Karina talked about. First, I wanted to talk about what the sub-committees are doing because Nelson's been doing, in his sub-committee, a lot of really good work. And also, I thought we could use this as an opportunity to kind of talk about the public engagement session because that was the work of the public engagement sub-committee. So, I don't know if Karina, I think almost all of us were at that public engagement session if anybody wants to say anything about how that went for those who weren't there.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Ah, well two weeks ago we had our public engagement session, it was hosted by RISD. Thank you very much, RISD.

MR. LAW: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: And it was, I thought it was very good. I've been to a number of public hearings and we definitely set out with the objective of doing this differently and trying to, you know, get more people involved by making it interesting in a setting outside of City Hall and not just the microphone at the front of the room kind of a thing. So, I hope that you agree with that we succeeded in that and we got about seventy people to come out, as I counted them in the room. And, I thought that was a pretty good turnout considering that this issue doesn't have a profile really in the city, you know, people don't really know what you mean when you say open government and come to a hearing about it. So, I was pleased that for the initial hearing that we got that many people and a variety of people. I thought we had some really good public input, we had notes that were captured, we have a transcript, we had some great interactive sessions afterwards in the lobby with the RISD students who were sharing their open source data projects and Andy can say a bit more about that. My chief couple of questions are what are we doing with all the public input? How do we sift through the transcript and the notes and pull out all the ideas that came from the public? Maybe you could speak to that, Anna, and just tell us. And, you know, is it on our website yet? I didn't even look this week or can it be? How do we incorporate the findings from the public hearing into our work I guess that's one question? And the second question is do we have another public engagement element of what we're doing as a Commission? I like the sound of what you said about, you know, holding a competition or asking people to submit their top wish of data they'd like to see public. Or, you know, I think we did a good first session of being just an open session that was open on every topic kind

of thing of what we're doing. And, if we do another public engagement session I would feel it should be very focused on something we want to achieve as a Commission and get the public's input around that. But, I'll leave it at that for now. Andy, do you want to say anything?

MR. LAW: What do you want me to say?

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Just about the RISD, for the people who weren't there, about the RISD student engagement.

MR. LAW: So, there was about eight tables, probably about sixteen students something like that and they showed some of their work which, some of the brought from the, what do they call it, the Center, Dunkin Donuts Conference Center? There was an exhibition –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: The Convention Center, yeah.

MR. LAW: -- on it and brought, the Convention Center, they brought some of that out and they showed people various ways that they looked open data, using open data sets. So, there was a variety of things, some of it was very experimental and would be classed as art and some of it was very sensible. Some of them had built tools that allowed people to publish books very, very easily which I think was a great example. I'm not sure how many people saw what but there was some interesting examples.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, there was, for instance, a data visualization tool where they took the federal budget and took several discreet pieces of information over time and allowed it, had a graphical representation.

MR. LAW: Was that was Collin?

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, I think. And, I mean, you can imagine this being applied to the city budget, right. If you could take the city budget over time and show the different cost centers, right, this would be a way, a tool for people to

see where the different cost centers have expanded and contracted over time. So, it wasn't just, sort of, artistic projects I thought there was real.

MR. LAW: Yeah. Which, I think the artistic ones are relevant as well or could be relevant. One thing that I did think was interesting is we engage the students in the subject as well which, I hadn't thought of that before.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Right, we got some new, some people who hadn't previously thought about open government are now interested in it and the applications that what they created –

MR. LAW: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- could have, which is good.

MR. ROCHA: I really like the visual minutes.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yes.

MR. ROCHA: That was really cool.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yes, yes. That's right. There were some RISD students were doing, I think there's a term, what's it called? Visual?

MR. LAW: Visual mapping.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Like mapping on the wall as the speakers were speaking, they were like graphically taking minutes. So, it wasn't just notes written but images as well which were great. We posted some photos of those on our Facebook page.

MS. MURPHY: If we are extended I would suggest that we schedule, as soon as possible, another session. This one we had a very small window to engage the public, to get the public all these non profits, particularly people who do business with the city. There were a lot of people that could've been there but we weren't able to reach them without any formal mechanism to advertise it.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: We could do targeted outreach. I think that's what I'm hearing you say. Like, you know, really say, you know, it's open to all but we particularly want to get these people.

MS. MURPHY: Right.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- the people --

MS. MURPHY: Our twenty-nine non profits, the Bicycle Coalition --

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Right.

MS. MURPHY: -- of Providence or whatever, all of these non profits. But, particularly people who do business with the city and have an opinion about whether they're treated appropriately or they're given good advice or they have access to the information they need.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Mmm hmm. Yeah, I agree.

CHAIRMAN MARION: So, maybe the little sub-committee can, our public engagement sub-committee can consider that pending the discussion later on the agenda about extending the Commission. Can I ask Anna, the minutes from that, when will those be available?

MS. STETSON: Those are being worked on. There were other things that we were catching up with first so those are being worked on and I will work with Tina to see how we can bullet them a little bit easier for you to be able to draw out what it is that you're looking for.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Because those we might want to highlight specifically like on the website for the Commission --

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- so that people can --. You know, I've made several statements there about you are being listened to --

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- you are being recorded to emphasize that they are. And then Andrew brought me the visual mapping products but I never thought to ask him if there's any way those can be scanned so that those -- we could put them up online.

MR. LAW: I think that we photographed it --

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah, each one was photographed --

CHAIRMAN MARION: Oh, they were.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- and then you can -- yeah, and so that's the best way I think just --

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- you know, posting the photographs.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Because I'm assuming RISD has the ability to scan a large object. I can scan a piece of copy paper but.

MR. LAW: Yeah, probably.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah, I don't know if we'd need to though.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Maybe try to pick a good quality picture --

MR. ROCHA: See how it looks.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- and convert it to a --

MR. LAW: Certainly if you -- there is a lot of photographs and a lot of -- there is a video of the event as well.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Right.

MR. LAW: They routinely --

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay.

MR. LAW: -- record events so.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Who has that?

MR. LAW: Me.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: I –

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- you sent me a copy too. I thought you sent it, maybe you just sent it to me, okay. And I started watching it but it is in real time. It's a real video of the whole thing, you know, minute by minute. So, but you can fast forward and you can start – I mean, if we could post that to our website that would be good and then people can watch it –

MS. STETSON: I think that'd be a really good idea.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- if they really want to and they can find the parts that they want to look at.

MS. COLLINS: I think people would like that.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah.

MS. STETSON: Mmm hmm.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Can video –

MR. DICECCO: It depends. You emailed her the video file or a link to it?
What was the size?

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: You did it with the sharing –

MR. LAW: I shared it.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- software.

MR. LAW: I can give you the original file if you want.

MR. DICECCO: Usually when videos are created with a camera they're too large to embed in a webpage so you have to convert it to an MP4 or something. Which, it's still a large file but it can be done. So, it's getting me the original.

MS. COLLINS: Or at least the link.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah, that's right. Could we just link it from the website to –

MR. DICECCO: Yeah, we'll just link to Facebook.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- wherever it's posted.

MR. ROCHA: Or You Tube.

CHAIRMAN MARION: But, like, where is it now?

MR. LAW: It's on You Tube.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Oh, it's on You Tube.

MR. LAW: But I just – it's a private thing but I could make it public if you like.

MR. DICECCO: Yeah, well I could – You Tube offers the embed code.

MR. LAW: Yeah.

MR. DICECCO: So, I could embed it, You Tube would continue to host it and we'll just –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Let's do that and then we can tell people.

MR. DICECCO: If it's in your private account, yeah you would need to make it public.

MR. LAW: Yeah.

MR. ROCHA: Do the video and the pictures for a slideshow and you can put them up.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN MARION: I know you're going out of town soon so is this something you could –

MR. LAW: Yeah, yeah, I think so.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- make it public.

MR. LAW: I think I sent it to you or Anna or both or somebody.

MS. STETSON: No, I didn't get it.

MR. LAW: I can send it again.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay. Yeah, maybe you did and I'm –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: All right, well let's get that done.

MS. STETSON: I didn't see it in –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: We can try to get that done tomorrow, all right.

MS. MURPHY: Or we can do it right now.

CHAIRMAN MARION: So, we'll try to get that up. We'll try, when the minutes are available get those up. I'll try to take pictures of these pictographs, is what I call them, that the students did because I thought that was really, that was really a great way to capture the information. And I also mentioned at the session that when we do issue a final report we'll put the comments in the final report so there some documented, the input we took because I think that's valuable. So that people can go back and reference that. Once we have the minutes then we can start to, because I didn't take notes that night so that I could engage the people, so then we can start to sort of sift through the information. Because, I think we all recognize that some of it had little to do with the mandate of the Commission but some of it I thought, especially toward the end, we heard some very relevant things that we might be able to incorporate. And we just have to capture that and get that.

MS. COLLINS: Are the Commissioners listed on the website now?

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah, we had –

MS. COLLINS: Are we on?

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- quite a few questions about that.

MS. COLLINS: That was a fair –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah, totally fair question.

MR. DICECCO: I don't know – the content for any of it so, you know, I'm not –

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, I think that –

MR. ROCHA: The names are on.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- yeah, I think the names are on --

MR. DICECCO: -- maybe a document --

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- when you originally made it.

MR. DICECCO: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN MARION: But we'll get this and Andy's stuff from the public engagement to Paul and we'll get it up there. I'll make sure that happens so that --

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: And if it could say --

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- people know.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- next -- if it could say next to the names of the Commissioners who was appointed by who.

MR. DICECCO: Yeah, I think it was just a list.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: It was another question too, like --

MS. STETSON: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- a mayoral appointee, Council appointee --

MR. DICECCO: Well, what happened was --

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- city official --

MS. STETSON: I have that.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- administration member or whatever.

MS. STETSON: I have something that we can put up.

MR. DICECCO: John, you sent me a paragraph and you sent me the list of links --

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yes.

MR. DICECCO: -- but no accompanying data for the links. Then I did accumulate some over time and the ones that are bold and linked obviously there's data. But there are a few, last I looked, it may have been week or two ago that there were no links to a document.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, so I think I put Code for America –

MR. DICECCO: And then no one really gave me any instruction. I think one of the, the Director of Communications, asked me to put up the public engagement meeting and I just, you know, no one – I just put it at the bottom with the image and there's still a paragraph that you had originally put. And, you know, but I was under the impression I was going to get a more detailed instruction as to how it should have been. You know, and you'll see in this open government and making data public there needs to be some organization from the top down to, you know, get some of this stuff too.

MS. MURPHY: Where was tonight's meeting posted? The notice of today's meeting.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: They're always posted with the Secretary of State –

MS. STETSON: On the Secretary of State's website.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- website.

MS. MURPHY: Oh, Secretary of State.

MR. DICECCO: Right. Now, that's been – come up, you know, because you know how when we had one of our first meetings the mention of User Voice was mentioned and, you know, although it may have been against my beliefs I did incorporate it. And besides ridiculous comments the only comments I saw that had any value were people stating they'd like to see minutes and meetings. And that content has been on the website for two years since the website was rolled out. Although, maybe confusing to find but meetings and minutes are, you know, the City Clerk's jurisdiction we'll say and that's where they've been for two years. So, I did recently make a, you know, if you're familiar with the website, you know the links that are top requested I did add a dropdown to the new calendar. But, the

meeting minutes have been there although it is Clerkbases and that's just the way it's been.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Well, why don't John and I review our web page tomorrow –

MR. DICECCO: Yeah, the open government page.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- and then email you our open government page and review it and then email you instructions.

MR. DICECCO: Right.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Because you're making a fair point, you're an administrator you're not the inventor of the materials.

MR. DICECCO: Right.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: So, we'll then say okay we need these minutes uploaded or this information –

MR. DICECCO: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- or this list.

MR. DICECCO: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: And can you replace this, here's the link for the video –

MR. DICECCO: Definitely.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- here's where it should go. We'll do that.

MS. MURPHY: Is there a problem putting it on the webpage for this Commission or having the link for the city?

MR. DICECCO: A problem with putting what?

MS. MURPHY: The notice of these meetings and –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah, that's what I'm saying, we should do that. I guess we have to say –

MS. MURPHY: Is there an impediment to that?

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- that we have to do it.

MS. MURPHY: I mean, is there a reason that's not done? Because people aren't – I don't think a lot of people know to go to the Secretary of State to look for a city meeting. I think –

MR. DICECCO: Well, you can go to the City Clerk's page.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, it's also on the City Clerk's page.

MR. DICECCO: You know, I mean, I could put it there but again no one's instructed me to do that.

MR. ROCHA: That's one of the issues.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: And it should be on our page. But, yes, I think it's a sort of – because there isn't a staff person for this Commission there isn't a person that's in charge of every day saying or even once a week –

MR. DICECCO: Right.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- saying oh, this needs to be done. We should do it.

CHAIRMAN MARION: But, as a matter of police what you're talking about, sort of, if you go to the X Commission's page of all the things that should be on there it should be the next meeting of the X Commission. That's actually something that I think Nelson's sub-committee is looking at in terms of reviewing the web page. I just want to mention before we pass it by, the User Voice, I went just today late this afternoon and there were five very good –

MR. DICECCO: Well, I saw one I offered to make a hand carved sign for the East Side neighborhoods.

CHAIRMAN MARION: But, there were some legitimate, you know, so the Assessor database has some technical problems, the, you know, some of the searchability problems that we discussed in an earlier meeting because of so many PDF's. And people have ranked them, it's not thousands of people –

MR. DICECCO: No, right.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- but it's a good example –

MR. DICECCO: Well, there's really no exposure.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yes.

MR. DICECCO: That page was made and it was hidden.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah.

MR. DICECCO: I don't even think there's a link to it from anywhere if you don't know to go to forward slash open government.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah, when you put it in the search box on the home page of providenceri.com –

MR. DICECCO: Do you find it now?

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- it comes straight up. So that's good because that's how I found it.

MR. DICECCO: Actually, Toby's drafting a layout of some policy pages in the open government one is one but it's far from being populated completely to be on the Mayor's department page.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay. So, one thing we can think about in public engagement is driving people to this as a way of, as an ongoing process of providing input.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah, we need to publicize it.

MR. ROCHA: I got a question, on the type of engagement in order to have a quality level of participation is it enough just to say, you know, here's a link put in

your ideas here? Or does there need to be anything more than that in order to engage the public?

MS. STETSON: A comment page, like a comment section?

MR. ROCHA: I don't know. I'm just – it's a question.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, I mean –

MR. DICECCO: Well, that's what the –

MR. ROCHA: We only got five comments, is that – should we have more?

Is there something we can do in order to increase participation with that?

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, that's what I was suggesting is we can, the sub-committee can look at how we can drive people to this –

MR. ROCHA: Okay.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- to make sure they know it's an ongoing process sort of thing. It develops on an ongoing basis. And they can write things, if you did end up getting hundreds of ideas it might act as a very useful sorting mechanism for prioritizing what the Commission wants to do. But, it's a decision that has to be made about are we going to push this a different way or are we going to put our efforts into more public engagement sessions or what. I think that sub-committee can work on that. Before, I don't want to, I'm trying to be aware of people's time, Nelson, your sub-committee has met and you produced, you have sort of a work product that you've been working on and I don't know if you want to talk about it.

MR. ROCHA: Sure, yeah. I just wanted to add to the public engagement, we had breakout sessions too and we captured some feedback from it as well. So, we have that in writing so I'd just like to –

CHAIRMAN MARION: Oh, you do, you took notes?

MR. ROCHA: Yeah, we assigned a couple of people to take some notes.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay.

MR. ROCHA: So, we've got that. And we'll walk through that feedback as well.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay.

MR. ROCHA: I can forward that to you.

CHAIRMAN MARION: That'd be great. And I'll try to make sure that that is translated.

MR. ROCHA: And it probably makes sense to also see how to incorporate that into our current practices because it was about the – current practices so we'll do that next I guess. Our current practices sub-committee we got together to define the current state and identify the opportunities for improvement of open government and how effective is government and how effective do we engage the city stakeholders. That was our objective and we had made Felicia Ingram, the IT Specialist, Paul DiCecco the webmaster, Lisa Fries, Pamela Cardillo for much of the time and John Speck some of the time. And Toby Shepherd also contributed significantly as well. And we've got some interns actually that are helping out so that's a great boost, that just started today they're taking a look at the document and taking another look and see what we can add. So, I think that's going to be –.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Can I have Toby introduce here right now?

MR. ROCHA: Sure.

MR. SHEPHERD: She actually just stepped out. But I'll just share real briefly.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay.

MR. SHEPHERD: So, six fellows started today in Providence city government, they're going to be with us for eleven weeks in different various departments. And one of them, Maria Jimenez, is a rising senior at Brown. And one of the projects that she was really excited about, that we were really excited about her taking on was supporting the work that this Commission is doing, kind of

being that staff person that you guys haven't had up until now. So, we met real briefly with John earlier today and thinking through how best we can use her time hopefully to really draft, take the recommendations you guys make and turn them into a – report. So, that's the work she's doing.

CHAIRMAN MARION: She seems very competent.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: What's her name?

CHAIRMAN MARION: Maria. Good. That removes all of our excuses for not getting anything done. So, I'm sorry did we interrupt?

MR. ROCHA: Yeah, I printed a draft if folks wanted to follow along. We've got quite a few copies. But, basically I'll just summarize we're not going to go through the whole stack. I'll give everyone a chance to get it. It's still very raw. So, on the second page basically, on the second page I just put in the contents and the questions that we we're going to answer and we derived it from the mandate. And so I derived it and we came up to five questions that we were going to try to explore. The first one, how accessible is public information including the hearings, the votes and the way it's organized and presented on the city website. That's in the mandate. And, part of that we broke it down into sub-levels and John Speck did an overall website usability assessment. I put in a Sunshine Review of Providence and I'll describe a little bit on what that is. Okay, basically the Sunshine Review is a non profit organization dedicated to state and local government transparency. The Sunshine Review collects transparency information, they have this ten point transparency checklist and basically it's based on pro-active disclosure of government data, in a nutshell. Providence had a B- but it doesn't seem so comprehensive, it seems like they just – the site. The Providence School District had a C- and it seems a bit more comprehensive. But, compared to other cities I think Providence is kind of a little behind I think. A lot of other cities are up ahead in terms of –. And we did a new review, okay, a more

comprehensive review, okay. So, also part of that question we have a – we took a look at the city website and we saw how it was organizing the information there and it's, you know, grouped by organization, services and by user too; resident, business, student, at the top of the website. And, we also looked into the hearings which is part of that mandate and the votes and what the current practices for that. Okay, I don't know if we should go through all the other questions or dig in deep to that first?

CHAIRMAN MARION: No, I mean, I don't – at this point because it's not necessarily a finished product I think maybe –

MR. ROCHA: All right.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- hit the highlights –

MR. ROCHA: Sure.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- and then – everybody agree?

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: There's lots of highlights.

MR. ROCHA: Okay, I'll just walk through the other questions. We also explored technology policies and procedures that support open government. Okay, third, what existing technology do government departments utilize to track the service quality, responsiveness and costs. I kind – metrics and I think that's a big part of components –. And I think the idea is a government – dashboard I think would cover that, what I envision. Four, current processes and how a citizen or stakeholder may process city government services and track their own status in city government services and be informed of their own user-centric info for this citizen dashboard concept. I, what a citizen dashboard to me kind of seems like what information is relevant to the citizen and not necessarily performance of the government is what I'm thinking. So, it's just; what do the users want, do they want it centralized, status –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Can you give an example of that so when you described it because at first I didn't understand what you meant by that but when you described the content of what it would be I got it. So, maybe if you could say that for everyone.

MR. ROCHA: Well, citizen dashboard, what do citizens want to see? They want to probably check up on your status of whatever service they requested, I would think. And I'd like to see what kind of –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Like, okay Karina Wood and it would tell me the taxes on my house, how many I've paid, what I owe –

MR. ROCHA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- what all the things related to me, where my, you know, your kids are at these public schools –

MS. COLLINS: And hopefully a way to pay online.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah, like here's how you can do things.

MR. ROCHA: I think that's the vision of citizen dashboard.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah.

MR. ROCHA: I'm not sure if that's actually attainable. We'd have to explore it to see if there's anything close to that.

MR. DICECCO: Yeah, tax pay online will be available around the 23rd of June. And it will be probably fully implemented by the next tax quarter and you'll be able to pay online.

MR. SILVERIA: You can actually do that today.

MR. DICECCO: You can pay?

MR. SILVERIA: You can pay your taxes online, yeah.

MR. DICECCO: You can but it doesn't, it's not in real time, it doesn't know your balance but it will –

CHAIRMAN MARION: But versus, I think for a good contrast, ri.gov just unveiled a couple of weeks ago an open government dashboard for the state. And you log on and I forget what the metrics were but it's really but it was –

MR. DICECCO: It's really just a gathering of links. It doesn't know you, it doesn't provide –

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, it's not personalized, it's like how many people were processed at the DMV this month and it's like that doesn't – that's interesting in its' own right –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: So that's the government performance dashboard that you're reciting in number three. And number four is –

MR. ROCHA: Yeah. I think they're two different separate dashboards.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- personal.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Just to make clear, I didn't really think about that distinction until I saw that and I was like this really is interesting and not very useful for me as a citizen, as a policy person extremely interesting but not as a citizen.

MS. COLLINS: Would I be derailing us if I asked if anybody has done anything about the thing that Gemma was talking about?

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: I was just going to ask the same thing.

CHAIRMAN MARION: So, can I address that.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN MARION: So, at the end of the public engagement session Anthony Gemma spoke up, he's running for Congress, and he talked about a dashboard. Back in 2010 he ran, also unsuccessfully for the 1st Congressional District, and at the same time the mayoral election was occurring and part of then candidate Taveras's platform was creating a dashboard, part of Anthony Gemma's

platform was creating a dashboard. There was a little bit of back and forth in the media about who came up with the idea first so I think what we were seeing was a little bit of a I've already got it and –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Like I went it did it.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- you're still having – I went and did it and you have a Commission.

MS. COLLINS: -- different state came up.

CHAIRMAN MARION: So, that's to contextualize I think those comments.

MS. STETSON: But, he was offering it for free.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: He was offering –

MR. ROCHA: But he spent \$400,000.00 –

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, so he hasn't reached out –

MR. DICECCO: Well, the problem so that maybe non technical people will understand is to offer a dashboard it's really just a folder full of files that communicate with a database. The problem we face is that various departments store their data in an incompatible format to communicate with such a dashboard. And because of funding we do not have the resources to hire programmers to build such an interactive interface. I'm all for what you speak about it's just the resources we have available, we're fortunate we have the unorganized, disarrayed website that's hard to navigate.

MS. COLLINS: So, is it true that the dashboard, the dashboard would be the easy part?

MR. DICECCO: Yeah. Well –

MS. COLLINS: And there's probably others available to us.

MR. SILVERIA: Well, not exactly easy.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: No, okay.

MS. COLLINS: Are there others available?

MR. SILVERIA: Well, there are some finished products there are application whether Mr. Gemma has one or there are other commercial applications you can get. But, there are a lot of steps to it that include getting the data into a format that can be pumped out, that can be regularly and preferably automatically –

MS. COLLINS: Yeah, that's what I mean –

MR. SILVERIA: -- updated.

MR. DICECCO: Yeah, automatic.

MS. COLLINS: -- using the dashboard is different than just having a user.

MR. SILVERIA: Right. That has to come from internal city business and processes and, you know, exported to the system so that it can display whether you want dials or graphs, charts whatever you want be able to display something meaningful. So, you know, it's like the one at the state level site, is it interesting or is it useful? And –

CHAIRMAN MARION: So, yeah, I just wanted to demonstrate –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: And so is Anthony Gemma's proposal, offer, whatever it is, is it legitimate?

MR. DICECCO: It's hot air.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: It's hot air.

MR. DICECCO: I mean I would need to see but basically I would say it was just –

MS. COLLINS: It's not useful.

MR. DICECCO: -- looking for a vote, a comment and making like I have something. But –

CHAIRMAN MARION: But, he couldn't put in place the systems necessary, you know –

MR. DICECCO: No.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- like, he might have an interface but he wouldn't have the underlying system --

MR. DICECCO: Right.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- that changes --

MR. SILVERIA: He wouldn't have the data necessary. But, you know, one of the discussions we've had, you know, among this group is rather than build that finished product and that's something that Chris had mentioned, is just publish the data and -- other people. So, if Mr. Gemma wants to create his own dashboard and link it to our data he's, you know, more than welcome to do that, as well as, anybody else.

MS. COLLINS: Okay.

MR. SILVERIA: Because I think the harder part is actually getting the meaningful data together.

MS. COLLINS: Analyzing it and everything.

MR. SILVERIA: Yeah, posting regular updates and making sure it's accurate and timely. Because, you know, as we've had this discussion there's plenty of examples of things that we would not have imagined people are looking to see. So, not to say that we shouldn't have any front end or any reporting or any displays but --

CHAIRMAN MARION: But that's what we heard in Philadelphia, keeping up with the technology, the government wouldn't be responsible for keeping up the technology it would be the outside programmers. The government would just be responsible for keeping the data fresh.

MS. MURPHY: Say you got a grant how much would it cost to make all those databases that are now incompatible compatible with this?

MR. DICECCO: Ah, to just ballpark it I would probably say a couple million because first of all --

MS. MURPHY: Oh my God.

MR. DICECCO: -- all of the hardware the city has and I'm sure Jim could back me up is antiquated.

MR. SILVERIA: Not all.

MR. DICECCO: So, first we need hardware updates. Then the database software, now, currently most of the databases like, for example, the Tax Collector it's an internal server that's behind a firewall which you can make it communicate but it's getting an application that can communicate with that, as well as, say the Police Department and as little as Animal Control so you could register or see how many licensed, pet licenses you have or a restaurant license. So, you know, I wouldn't know where to start but it would be a big undertaking because like I said, ask Anna, the problem she has just herself with just her one computer. And it travels all the way down to every department.

MS. COLLINS: We talked about awhile ago that there were consultants that the city paid for previously to make recommendations that we paid. Can we get those recommendations? Are those available to us?

MR. DICECCO: What consultation, as far as what --

MS. COLLINS: I don't remember but we had discussed that there were some consultant that came in before.

MR. JACOBSON: IBM did the smarter cities report.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, so we have the smarter cities report it was part of the --

MR. DICECCO: Yeah, we have that report, I think.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- competition --

MS. COLLINS: Okay.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- that we won. Felicia shared this with me which was a review, I think, Nelson she brought it to your sub-committee, or you've never seen it? They did, in 2009, a review of all city websites.

MR. ROCHA: I saw that.

MR. DICECCO: Yeah, that report was of the Cicilline's administration website and the website we have now is a result of that report.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Oh, okay.

MR. DICECCO: And their findings and that company developed our current website.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: And I would say it's definitely improved.

MR. DICECCO: It's improved but what happened is the Cicilline administration had implemented this and after the first few months the new administration came in and didn't know the plan of the previous administration.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Okay.

MR. DICECCO: And they were kind of left holding the ball and not knowing what to do with it. So, and basically the girl that was overseeing the content, the building, the design and overseeing every department recently left and we have a new one but, you know, it's going to take awhile. And I really can't be open with my observations as I'd like to be.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: That's okay.

MR. ROCHA: Can I ask Chris, does Philly have a -- what type of dashboard do they have? A citizen dashboard or just a government dashboard? Can citizens log in? Do you know?

MR. KINGSLEY: I don't what they do have -- they may call it citizen's dashboard. I mean, there's the ones that come to mind are Boston About Results uses an oracle platform to do -- New York City has something as well but it's, as

usual, sorry my perception of New York systems is that they're always at such a scale I can't figure out how to apply it anywhere else. I would take a look at Boston About Results.

MR. DICECCO: You know, now if you go to whitehouse.gov, the whitehouse.gov does have an IT dashboard and it's an actual, it's a Drupal install just like we use and I did download it and I did try to install it but, you know, it's proprietary to their environment. and I couldn't get anything to function. It wouldn't – it's not like you just install something and it says oh I know where the Tax Collector is let me show you your tax amount. It just was, you know, and I deleted it and just was frustrated with the fact that it may be freely available but I'm one, you know, person and it just, you know, I have duties to tend to that to spend a whole week trying to, you know. And, you know, the same thing would probably happen with the Anthony Gemma application. Ideally, we need something that is programmed, now, you know, you talk about making the data available and having third parties come and display it. Well, that may be fine but as a city we want to be able to have a user dashboard, like you said, you log in, it knows your name. You know, I envision it showing you your tax bill and saying oh, you own Andino's and your liquor license expires –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Exactly.

MR. DICECCO: -- and you have two German Shepherds that they're expired.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah.

MR. DICECCO: You know, but that's a lot of accumulating and connecting.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Your cars are registered in Florida.

MR. DICECCO: Right.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Get them back here.

CHAIRMAN MARION: So, Nelson do you want to finish?

MR. ROCHA: Yeah, sure. So, I just want to show that distinction between the government performance dashboard which I think is more attainable than the citizen dashboard so. And then five, the challenges and barriers to change for a more open government; cultural, training, legal, policy. And then we just summarized what opportunities we found. I can go through that or depending on time.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, what if we – if you don't we'll move on.

MR. ROCHA: Sure.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Because there's a couple other, there are a couple of other things.

MR. ROCHA: Okay.

CHAIRMAN MARION: And this work is ongoing so you're going to –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Well, can I ask in terms of what you've done which, is really wonderful, first, just to thank you and the sub-committee for doing this work and documenting it all like this. I mean, what are the top things that you're recommending from your sub-committee if you had to say to us? Like, what are the most outstanding things that you've gleaned from looking at the – examining the current practices that are ripe for reform?

MR. ROCHA: Well, open data I think is one of the big items, you know, that'd be a big change. Ah, I summarize, I guess, a few here; simplifying or improving the navigation, just navigating through the site. That's a minor, obviously, this website changed but I think there's a lot of stuff that's hard to find information on. I think, in a nutshell, a lot of – is hard to find. And proactive disclosure of government data, I think that's important. A lot of times government data just shows up if by request and it probably should be disclosed by schedule, you know. So, proactive disclosure that's related to the Sunshine Review. Improving the content as well. So, identifying the content owners I think is a good

first step so there's accountability. And standardizing the content across the sites, you know, across the – I guess who the staff is for that department, what their procedures are, you know, all that kind of information, even budget perhaps, expenditures, checkbook, at least a link to it. Improve the transparency.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, the City of Providence doesn't have an online checkbook right?

MR. SILVERIA: No.

CHAIRMAN MARION: No, okay. That'd be a pretty common thing that –

MR. DICECCO: Or accounts payable, accounts receivable.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- we could be –

MR. DICECCO: We did look at Massachusetts's and we saw the format and how they do it and again it's talking to systems.

MR. SILVERIA: That's actually something that I think I might have mentioned in one of the first meetings is that some of these things would be great for external use but they'd also be very good for internal use. Because, we, even as a department head, we don't have the best reporting systems in place for us for our own use. And there's probably some similar information that, you know, would be appropriate and useful to publish.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Okay, good. Great, that's very helpful thank you.

CHAIRMAN MARION: So, the best practices sub-committee –

MR. ROCHA: Sorry. I just want to make sure I touch on the big pieces. But open data also including do if yourself visualizations, that's kind of been a hot thing, so it's not just giving it to developers but also regular people who can actually take that data and just create some charts or visualizations like Google Fusion, that's one example of how to do this. But also videotaping of meetings, that's been requested, I mean, that's a hot item, we need to figure that out, it could

be, you know, there's options there. And, I think in a nutshell, that probably touches on the major items. Does anybody have anything?

MR. DICECCO: No, he's been very thorough, he's done a very thorough report.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah, definitely. Great.

CHAIRMAN MARION: It will take you all year to finish it.

MR. DICECCO: More than one.

CHAIRMAN MARION: So, Alan reached out to me today to apologize because he's been busier at work and other commitments than he thought he would be and has been sort of dropped the ball with the best practices sub-committee to some degree. And John Speck who I also know is interested in that sort of stuff reached out, although he's on the current practices, that his busy time for his job is basically until the end of June. And so I didn't know if there's anyone who wanted to grab the reins of the best practices –

MS. COLLINS: Weren't we going to end these sub-committees pretty soon?

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, I mean, they haven't met in quite awhile and – too much and I feel, I was talking to Maria and Toby before this, about we have John and we have Allan who are big thinkers in this gov 2.0 world and we need to sort of capture what they think. Even if they aren't the chair of a committee or member of a committee we need to capture that and use that somehow. And, actually Maria offered to help do that on an individual basis, as a staff member she could sort of interview some of the Commissioners to gather their thoughts that could then be brought to the Commission as a whole or a sub-committee or whatever the body is and use. So, if they physically can't be here, Allan can't make it to many meetings we can try to get, capture Allan's thoughts better than we have so far. And I didn't know if anybody had a burning desire to seize the reins on any of that work. I can say depending on how long our extension here is,

if we seek one, my busy season at the legislature ends probably in about seven to five to nine days depending on when Speaker Fox wants to go home for the summer. So, you know, I'm going to dedicate a lot more to this when that's over after a period of sleeping. And so, you know, I would be happy to if we need to re-jigger the sub-committee even maybe to head that sub-committee or something just to kind of get that going and make sure that's being captured. And then that is also being sort of synched with what Nelson and his sub-committee are finding right. So, if Nelson has an idea the best practices of something that needs to be done it may be the best practices sub-committee that identifies where it is that has the best practice to implement that idea, that's how I see the two cooperating.

MR. DICECCO: So, if I understand this right that Allan and John are the techies of the group and are appointed by the Mayor and they're probably the best resource for best practices and they've walked?

CHAIRMAN MARION: They didn't walk.

MS. STETSON: No, they didn't.

MR. DIECCO: Well, that's what he just said.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: No, no, no, not that they, no, they haven't walked they just – come to the meetings and so we keep not getting their engagement.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, they just had the wrong schedule –

MR. DICECCO: Because – do on my own that –

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- for this.

MR. LAW: John, are you suggesting that you head the best practices committee?

CHAIRMAN MARION: I will –

MR. LAW: Because if you're proposing that I would get an extension, I would be very happy to support you with that.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah.

MR. LAW: And we might be able to get an intern if Brown can throw an intern around I don't see why –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: If you want to, yeah.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Institutional rivalry rears its' ugly head.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: No, its' very productive head.

CHAIRMAN MARION: So, yeah, I mean, if we're going to go on for a little while longer than June 30th I would take that and we'll try to get Allan and John's involvement they just won't have to have ownership over the sub-committees.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: What you're saying is maybe get Maria, get yourself, get you and get – and go to Betaspring at lunchtime and sit down with Allan and get – download his brain and get the links –

MR. LAW: Yeah, I've got a student –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- and then you write it up, that kind of a thing, right.

MR. LAW: Yeah, I get it.

MS. COLLINS: But for now I have not been able to make his daytime meetings but for now as part of best practices I, you know, I could do some stuff on my own like maybe calling and making some phone calls to some other cities and bringing it.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah. So, I mean, I think we kind of need to hit the reset button on the best practices part. We have these resources, John Speck feels terrible he can't be here. I don't even know what he does but he said June, until the end of June he's spent and then he's free. And Allan we know, during the course of this, won that fellowship from the Rhode Island Foundation and his expectations kind of got ratcheted up in that so.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: But I liked your suggestion though of looking at what the current practices committee have identified as priorities and then using it as a framework for best practices. So, you know, where – what cities are broadcasting all of their meetings in a really effective and efficient manner. And how are they getting funded. And how do they do it. Is it a private partnership? Are they getting sponsorship? Is it the local university does it or do they do it? Let's go find out and then present that. And then online checkbook, who's doing that really well, let's go find it. Or whatever the other pieces are. I think that's a really structured way to do it.

MR. SILVERIA: I agree. I think that direction would be helpful. Because we did spend some time basically bouncing around the internet looking at other cities and towns and –

MS. COLLINS: Did you see a couple of cities that stood out?

MR. SILVERIA: Well, not so much a city as a whole but we found at least components that some cities did some very interesting things, some things that they did very well that would be useful. And some of these seem to come down from I'd say the state level where you found every city in a particular state has very, very similar data points that they're publishing. And it's all just their interface and presentation of the type of information that they have.

CHAIRMAN MARION: So, yeah, I would offer to try to drive that starting in about a week to ten days. And to the other recommendation I got from a Commissioner who couldn't be here, Felicia recommended that we invite someone from ri.gov to come and talk about what resources they might be able to provide.

MS. STETSON: Yes, because they have a free service too, that's right.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: That's a very good idea.

CHAIRMAN MARION: And so, if it's okay next time we meet I'll have somebody from ri.gov come and –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Could we invite somebody from Boston as well to come to us? I mean, I know we had that little field trip of some of the Commissioners going to Boston but it was at a day's notice, a lot of us couldn't go. It would be so great if we could have somebody come here and really speak where did they begin, how did they do it, what are they doing, what are their successes and failures.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, they offered to come. The one guy we met with, Nigel, offered to come down and talk to us. I think –

MR. ROCHA: Who, Nigel?

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: If you think it's useful, I mean.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah.

MR. ROCHA: I think Nigel's a –

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, I mean, we can bring people here.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Do you think that would be helpful?

MR. ROCHA: Well, that would be super.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Okay.

MR. ROCHA: If we can get them.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah.

MR. ROCHA: I know there's – on their site they also have the plan of how they implemented it as well. It's all spelled out.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Oh, okay.

MR. ROCHA: So, we can actually just look at it and just kind of, you know

–

MR. SILVERIA: I've seen their presentation from their CIO as well.

MR. ROCHA: Yeah.

MR. SILVERIA: He wants to let everybody to know that it's similar to what we're going through now, he started his first year, which, was basically getting the plumbing in place. And, you know, that's frankly what we're looking at is if we're going to publish information I think the city needs to get that data together.

MR. DICECCO: Everything in one place.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Right.

MR. ROCHA: Even a conference call if they can't be here in person. I don't know if that's possible.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, but I can explore when they're –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: See what we can offer them in Providence for the day, like, what can we, you know, come on up, talk at our meeting and we'll take you out at night or something.

MS. STETSON: Mr. Chairman, I think that, you know, listening to everything going on around the table here there's a lot going on and I don't think the Committee is ready to end it come June 30th. I think that it seems like everybody's got a lot of stuff in their head and you want to bring it a little further forward. So, I would suggest that you do extend the Resolution and if you do that the deadline is next Friday because we have our Council meeting this week so docket deadline to get that in. I can take care of that, I can put the extension in for you if you want to give me a date, if you want to extend it for three months, six months, thirty days.

CHAIRMAN MARION: So, legally is it up to us or is it up to the Council?

MS. STETSON: Oh, no that's up to you.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Oh.

MS. STETSON: It's a Council Resolution but the Commission can – I can get the Council President to sponsor the Resolution for you.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay.

MS. STETSON: But if you give the information as to where you'd like to see it go –

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, so –

MS. STETSON: -- we can talk about that.

CHAIRMAN MARION: During the week too, but I just want to let you know I need it by next Friday.

MS. MURPHY: Should we talk about this now?

DISCUSSION OF QUORUM PROBLEMS FOR SUB-COMMITTEES

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, does anybody have any –

MS. COLLINS: It's on our agenda.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- think about it and I'll just hit number four real quick because this is pretty simple. Lisa reached out to me because Nelson's been having some problems having a quorum and actually having a meeting. Because there were some sub-committee members who couldn't attend and then Jeff was technically on the sub-committee but Lisa was coming in his place. So, you've taken some steps and I have taken some steps and I don't know if you want to talk about the steps you've taken.

MS. FRIES: Well, I just had Jeff officially designate me as the Committee member for both the larger Commission and the sub-committee. So, now I help for purposes of a quorum though I believe under the Resolution that was fine anyway without kind of the formalities but I wanted to leave no question as to that. So, we – so that helps. Now, we reached out to you just to say do you want to reach out to –

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, and I did.

MS. FRIES: -- John –

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yes.

MS. FRIES: -- Speck who I think Nelson confirmed isn't a member of sub-commission. There's a little confusion as to whether he's an official member or not, I know their Commission, the sub-committee was created by oral motion so I'm assuming he wasn't a member of the larger Commission. You were exploring whether he wanted to resign and then potentially replace him and/or just reduce the quorum so we could --

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, so I reached out to John and he said, you know, I just won't be able to make it here in the month of June. So, he sent me a letter of resignation today from the sub-committee, not the Commission. He wants to participate as he can. And, you know, I invited him, he can, you know, give his input to the sub-committee he just wouldn't be an official member -- quorum problems. And so, I can -- do I give that to the Clerk? How do I --

MS. STETSON: Well, I think that, I think that is something you just bring to the Commission and inform the members.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay.

MS. STETSON: Put it on your agenda, you know, that he has resigned as a member of the sub-committee and that would just take him off that and that would be it, you wouldn't have to do anything else with it.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Do I have to wait until the next meeting or -- since I've received it --

MS. STETSON: It's not on the agenda. So, I --

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, okay.

MS. STETSON: -- would bring it up for the next meeting. I mean, you do have discussion of quorum problems but I don't know how --

CHAIRMAN MARION: I should've probably phrased it differently. Okay.

MS. STETSON: I mean, the Commission members are aware that he's resigning from that seat so with the next meeting maybe you can name somebody to, you know, replace him.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah.

MS. STETSON: Just indicate that he is, you know, do it officially and replace him.

CHAIRMAN MARION: So, we can work with Nelson to try to get a quorum.

MR. ROCHA: Sure. I know Pamela is out for a couple of weeks on vacation too –

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, she said the 14th. So, but what is the quorum for – so there's eight members? Or, no?

MS. COLLINS: Six, I believe.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Seven members.

MR. ROCHA: Six. It will be five once John is – by the next meeting.

MS. STETSON: You need three for a –

MR. ROCHA: So, I just need three, that will be enough, yeah that's fine.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay. So, you're good.

MR. ROCHA: And I open it up to anyone else who wants to, you know, join.

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF COMMISSION'S EXPIRATION DATE

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay. So, then in terms of the expiration date of the Commission as a whole does anyone have any thoughts that they'd like to share about? I know summer's coming and people might be less available in the summer so we might have a harder time holding a quorum.

MS. STETSON: Just another suggestion too, the City Council, now I don't know how this Commission feels, but the City Council does take the month of August off, they don't do any official business unless, of course, there's an emergency. So, it's something you may want to think about.

MR. DICECCO: So, extend it three months or four months and take July and August off.

MS. MURPHY: I move that we extend it six months.

MS. COLLINS: I second that.

On motion of Ms. Murphy, Seconded by Ms. Collins it is voted to extend the Commission for six months.

MR. SILVERIA: Can I make a suggestion just to – just in considering an extension which makes sense. Is there any interest in taking the approach of actually creating a schedule for, according to the Ordinance, what needs to be done and kind of a timeline of when these things will be done –

MS. STETSON: I think that's a good idea.

MR. SILVERIA: -- and that will help us to build how much time we need.

MS. COLLINS: But, I think the sub-committees as they stand right now are starting to become a little bit finished. Are we almost – do they need to continue?

CHAIRMAN MARION: Well, I mean all three are different. Obviously, the best practices hasn't gotten too far, the current practices has nearly finished sort of one type of product and the public engagement –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: And we feel like we need to do some more kind of very focused public engagement. So, we need some time to do that. But, I don't know if we need –

CHAIRMAN MARION: We could always ask for a six month extension and finish earlier.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah, that's right.

CHAIRMAN MARION: That's one thing to keep in mind. And yes, I agree, and I probably should be the one who is responsible for this trying to get this timeline before the next meeting that we can then, you know, talk about –

MS. STETSON: You can put something together that are targets, that, you know, the Commission and everybody, you know, in three months this is what we're looking to do, those types of things. I'd be glad to work with you, John, if you need me.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay. So –

MR. LAW: If we're taking it to the end of the calendar year it would make it easier, very easy to get help from interns.

MS. STETSON: Then we can have a Christmas party.

MR. LAW: I was just – summer interns are difficult.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah, I like the way you think.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay. So, do we need a formal motion and vote?

MS. MURPHY: I moved.

CHAIRMAN MARION: You moved.

MS. MURPHY: I moved and you ignored me.

MS. COLLINS: I seconded.

MS. STETSON: She does have a motion on the floor so you can ask for a second.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah, Elaine seconded it.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Any discussion of the motion on the floor? I think we already have.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: We did that.

CHAIRMAN MARION: All in favor?

COMMISSION: Ayes.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Any opposed?

MS. STETSON: Six months.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Six months of indentured servitude. Okay.

MR. DICECCO: With August off.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: With August off, yes.

DISCUSSION OF COMMISSION'S MANDATE

CHAIRMAN MARION: That'll be in the timeline. And then I put on discussion of the Commission's mandate just so in case anybody, you know, had any thoughts after all of the other discussion that if we wanted to seek any changes to the mandate in the Resolution. Or if we think we already have enough flexibility in that Resolution given what we've been doing to keep moving forward. But, I'm assuming people's silence is we're good for now.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: What were you saying? Are you asking if

—

CHAIRMAN MARION: So, basically —

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- we want to go beyond the Resolution?

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- if we want to ask for the mandate in the Resolution to be changed at all. A good time to ask for it to be changed is when we ask for the extension. So, if we want to say we reject the idea of a citizen's dashboard because it's unworkable, I'm just throwing something out —

MR. DICECCO: Or recommended it in our —

MS. COLLINS: -- what we recommend what we think is the —

MS. STETSON: Yeah. You can make a request to amend the Resolution.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: What have we got?

MS. STETSON: I can talk to Council President who sponsors it and again you only have a week to do that.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah. So, if I don't hear any strong opinions I assume we're okay with what our mandate is now. We can work within that.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Can I just make a point?

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: That I don't know if either of our, any of the three sub-committees that we have is actually working on point number C in the Resolution which, is developing a feasible plan for implementation.

MS. COLLINS: I think we're all going to do that.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: But like, as in, sorry I'll clarify that, with the funding. Like, aren't we meant to be looking for funding sources like that's feasible implementation not how it feasibly, technically is implemented but how do we –

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, that's something we haven't gotten –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: I don't think any of us have been looking at that.

MR. ROCHA: I think Boston's got an implementation plan –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: We've got to identify sources of funding to –

MR. ROCHA: -- I think that's a good start.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- support changes needed. And we haven't –

CHAIRMAN MARION: Well, so as we think about the timeline –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- put that in there.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- we can think about, yeah, putting that in there as, you know –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: We haven't engaged business and labor stakeholders so that's something –

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, that might be for the next –

MS. STETSON: For the next round, yeah.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- the next one.

NEW BUSINESS

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay, any new business before the Commission.

MR. ROCHA: Well, I just know there's a member from Clerkbases.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Sir.

MR. ROSENFELD: I just wanted to introduce myself, I'm Jay Rosenfield from Clerkbases. And, obviously as mentioned, we provide the minutes and list Ordinances for the city. There's a lot more that we can do, we'd be happy to speak with you about it. We also –

MS. STETSON: The City Council.

MR. ROSENFELD: The City Council.

MS. STETSON: Yeah, the City Council minutes are on Clerkbases.

MR. ROSENFELD: What'd I say?

MS. STETSON: The city.

MR. ROSENFELD: Okay. There's much more we can do. Also, I've been working in government for eighteen years, we go to the National Clerk's Conference, the National Manager's Conference as well, so we see a lot of vendors out there that may have something that they can do for you as well. So, you know, we're open to give you information.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Okay, great. Thank you. Maybe we could invite you to give a more formal presentation at a future meeting. Would you be open to that?

MR. ROSENFELD: Yes, in August.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN MARION: Thank you. We have a couple others. Pam.

MS. MURPHY: I just wanted to introduce Daisy Schneppe who is here, she is a very well respected community advocate, community leader who's done a lot

of interaction with the city, advocating for the Fox Point Neighborhood and around the 195 Commission. And I'm glad to see her here.

CHAIRMAN MARION: We should have done introductions at the beginning, I'm sorry. I made you wait an hour and a half. Thank you. Did you have anything else Nelson?

MR. ROCHA: No.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Anyone?

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: I have one last just relating to your point about extending the mandate of the Resolution. If we wanted to, I think we've talked about this before but, it is all about data and making current information more accessible to the citizens plus the dashboard. I don't know if it covers things like making the operations of government and a citizen's interaction with it better. I think that was your point, Jim, right earlier was that you that was making it? Like, you know, and I don't know if we need to bring that up, if we can take that on but things like the suggestion that came up in the public meeting of having a citizens open mike night once a month at City Hall. That's something that I think was a really good suggestion about inviting people to come and have their say to government about what they want, that wouldn't necessarily fit into this technical –

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, or Pam's talking about contract negotiations.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: That kind of thing, yes. I don't know if there's one, if we want to open that up to the City Council or if we should just go ahead and suggest it in our report. I don't know what the right –

MS. MURPHY: I think it's in there for a reason. And I think at the end of this process I would think that we would come up with ways to implement all of this. Otherwise, I think it dilutes everything we've been doing if we take that out. I mean, we've got to get some ideas for implementation of all of these.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: What I mean is, we're not taking it out, it isn't in here. That was my point.

MS. MURPHY: Oh, are you talking about number C?

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: I'm just talking about the Resolution as it stands reads to me anyway that it's –

CHAIRMAN MARION: Technical aspect.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: -- totally focused on technical aspects of data and using technology to make data more accessible to the public.

MS. MURPHY: Number C, letter C, develop a feasible plan for implementation.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Well, no that was an earlier point I was making. But, the point I'm saying now is this Resolution, this mandate to us doesn't encompass making government work better for citizens it just is about making data accessible and finding a way to do that. So, do we want to propose back to the Council that we want to do things like – do you know what I'm saying?

CHAIRMAN MARION: More policy –

MS. MURPHY: Oh, yes, yes, yes, I agree.

CHAIRMAN MARION: -- oriented then –

MS. MURPHY: I thought you were wanting to restrict –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: No, no I'm wanting to –

MS. MURPHY: You want to add to it.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Yeah, expanding.

MS. MURPHY: I'm sorry, I didn't understand. I agree.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: You know, on the other hand I know there's only so much we can do and that we're trying to come up with some key things but if we are going to extend our life – I don't know maybe I – maybe we

should just – maybe I should just come up with some language or something to make it more specific but.

CHAIRMAN MARION: Yeah, I think it would be good to try to bring some of the data issues, tech issues to a head and if as we do that you say well, that's all good but we're ignoring these other legal processes or whatever issues we need to tackle those before we're done then, you know, I'm fine having a discussion about that. But, I don't think we have anything we can put forward tonight.

MS. MURPHY: But I do think our mandate is broad enough and the language is broad enough that implicit in it would include any policy recommendations that we would add or develop at the end of the process.

MR. LAW: But, we would be making a note of things that we couldn't actually implement with technology.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Hopefully, yeah.

MR. LAW: Yeah, here's a proposal of how we're going to do these things but it does leave out these other things.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: I mean, it does say government accountability here which, I would say is not just about the narrower details that then follows about data and using technology to express data. Yeah, okay.

CHAIRMAN MARION: One last thing, do people want to meet in two weeks because we've been meeting roughly every two weeks or do we want to space it out a little bit.

MR. DICECCO: Well, you need to plan your meetings so you can address her, the extension.

MS. STETSON: No, he's –

MR. DICECCO: What'd you say by next Friday, we don't have to sit and have a –

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: No, no, because we just passed that motion now.

CHAIRMAN MARION: I guess I have some unilateral power to ask for an extension on behalf of the Commission. But, if you look – so that would be the 18th or do we want to space it at all? You know, do you want to shoot for two weeks? Okay, just keep going so we don't lose any momentum.

MS. COLLINS: It's tough to meet further out than two weeks because of that open meetings rules – we're just sort of stymied.

CHAIRMAN MARION: So, why don't we meet the 18th and on the 18th we'll try to have more of a plan for the next three to six months and see how that's going to play out. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

MS. MURPHY: So moved.

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN WOOD: Second.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion of Ms. Murphy, Seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Wood it is voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 o'clock P.M.

City Clerk

Assistant Clerk