**June 11, 2019 Meeting - Seattle Community Technology Advisory Board**

Topics covered included: Bellwether Housing; Vote: Supporting Democracy Lab Hackathons; Seattle Public Library Emerging Technology Series; Vote: Digital Equity Act; Vote: Tech Access and Adoption Study Recommendations; committee updates.

**This meeting was held:** June 11, 2019; 6:00-8:00 p.m., Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue, Room 2750

Podcasts available at:  <http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/CTTAB/podcast/cttab.xml>

**Attending:**

**Board Members:** Steven Maheshwary, Mark DeLoura via phone, Smriti Chandrashekar via phone, Torgie Madison, Karia Wong, Charlotte Lunday via phone; John Krull

**Public:** Dorene Cornwell, Harte Daniels, Maitreyee Joshi, Kristen Hoffman, Liz Gilbert via phone, Rene Peters, Amy Besunder, Dayna Lurie, Kreg Hasegawa

**Staff:** Tracye Cantrell; Chance Hunt, Alice Lawson, Seferiana Day, Cass Magnuski

**21 In Attendance**

**Steven Maheshwary:   I think we're going to kick it off and get started. Okay, everyone, welcome to our June CTAB meeting. We typically do introductions around the room. We will say our name, what neighborhood we're from, and something we're doing to enjoy the unseasonably beautiful weather we're having outside.**

**Tracye Cantrell:**    Let me give a rating on the menu. It's really good!

**Seferiana Day:**   You can find that downstairs.

**Tracye Cantrell:**   I'm Tracye Cantrell, and I just want to say a couple of words about--I don't know if this group is aware, but we've gone through a reorganization in Seattle IT. I know Saad Bashir came in and spoke about some of his visions two months ago. We're marching towards that path. What you should be aware of is I will have a stronger role in this community, because this area has moved under my purview, and I'm very excited about that. I wanted to be here tonight. I have to sneak out a little before 7:00, but I just wanted to say hello. I'm looking forward to getting to be more participatory with this board. It's just a great thing to talk to the Mayor about, and City Council, and the Deputy Mayor. So, I hope I will be the champion that you would like me to be.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

**Steven Maheshwary:**   All right, so we can move on to our agenda and minutes. We have a quorum today, which is great. Do we have a motion to approve the June agenda.

**Torgie Madison:**  I move that we approve the June agenda.

**Steven Maheshwary:**   Do we have a second?

**John Krull:**  Second.

**Steven Maheshwary:**   All in favor of approving the June agenda? June agenda has been approved. Do we have a motion to approve the minutes from May?

**Karia Wong:**  I so move.

**Torgie Madison:**Second.

**Steven Maheshwary:**   All in favor of approving the May minutes, please say 'aye.'  May minutes passes. Okay, first up, we have Amy Besunder from Bellwether Housing with a few exciting announcements. We're excited to have her talk about her initiative and Bellwether Housing.

**Amy Besunder:**   Thanks for having me. I am the director of development and communications for Bellwether Housing. Bellwether Housing is actually the largest provider of non-profit affordable housing in Seattle. We have 32 buildings, and about 3,200 residents, and 2,066 affordable apartments. We've been around since 1980. We were formed by the Downtown Business Association, and we're extraordinarily concerned with ensuring that their workers have places to live where they were working. And we kind of continued in that vein, so the people that we serve are at zero to 60 percent of the median income, with the bulk of our folks in that 30 to 60 percent area.

Obviously, we all know that there is a significant affordable housing crisis, and Bellwether has positioned itself to embark on a pretty extraordinary campaign in the next three years and will be building at four different locations. The first location is our first building outside of Seattle. It's the Confluent in Tukwila, Washington. It's one block form the Light Rail station. It has 103 units of affordable housing. It is primarily for larger families, so most of these apartments are going to be two and three-bedroom apartments. We know that there are many refugee families being displaced there, so we're working with Muslim Refugee Services, the school system there, where they have a significant number.  I think 35 percent of the students in the Tukwila School District are experiencing homelessness, so we will be working with those folks, as well, to fill the units. We'll also be working with -- King County will have 30 units set aside for veterans and veteran families here. This will come online in 18 months, so we're just getting underway with this.

Then we have Rose Street II. This is down in the Rainier Valley. Rose Street II has 180 units. This again, has a focus on family housing. It is adjacent to another property we have across the street, which has 70 units of affordable housing. We are going to have Muslim Family Services onsite. We are also having an affordable pre-school  in the main area; there is a lovely community plaza, and this will come online in 2022.

Then, this is a big project for us. This is the Madison/Boylston Apartments. It is a joint project with Plymouth Housing. We will have 371 apartments here. It is the first affordable housing high rise to be built in Seattle, the first nonprofit high rise. The first seven floors will be owned and operated by Plymouth Housing and will serve chronically homeless single adults, aged 55 and older. And then floor seven through 17 will be owned and operated by Bellwether and we'll be serving primarily workforce housing, people working in the hospitals up there, individuals in the service industry, retail, all of the jobs that occupy that First Hill area.

And then, our final project is down in the Roosevelt area. If you know where the old QFC is, this is Cedar Crossing. Cedar Crossing is again focused on family housing. We're going to have 255 homes. About 50 percent of them are going to be two and three-bedroom homes. There is, once again, an affordable child care on the main level that will serve the  residents of the building, as well as the community as a whole. It is right next to the Light Rail station. I should indicate that all of these projects are within a one-block radius of Light Rail or Sound Transit. Our partner here is Mercy Housing. They will be providing onsite support services to keep people housed. And we will also have a number of other service providers, after school programs, a homework lab, and a number of community spaces for folks to gather.

So those are the four projects that will come online in the next three years.

What's sort of interesting about the way we're doing this is that in the past, Bellwether has had two impact investment funds. If you're not familiar with impact investing, we ask socially motivated individuals to make a low interest loan to Bellwether. So, basically, individuals have loaned us an amount of money, and we pay two percent interest back quarterly. The term is 15 years. We've done two of these, totally $4 million, and invested them in two past projects. We had about 40 investors in each. In the past, the Securities and Exchange Commission had eliminated impact investing exclusively to accredited investors, so people with a net worth of $1 million, excluding their primary home. Recently, the rules have opened up, and we were approached by Tech for Housing and asked if we would consider doing a crowd fund, opening this up to folks who are not accredited investors, to anyone who had interest in investing in affordable housing. And we did some investigation. We checked into whether there was really an appetite for that and found that there was. We had always wanted to engage more people.

So we have two elements to our next fund. We are going to raise $4 million from accredited investors, and half a million dollars from non-accredited investors. We got a really exciting announcement today: We were one of the 20 charities selected by Amazon for a match. For every investment that is made by an Amazon employee, they will match that charitable fund. Our minimum investment in the impact fund is $500. Again, the terms are two percent paid out quarterly over a term of 15 years. People have the option to opt out every five years. It's a pretty exciting program. Actually, we did pre-registration today and we're already seeing a lot of activity. One of the really great things about this, though, is that people consistently come and meet with us and say, "I don't know what I can do."  And this gives people a real tangible way to plug into the affordable housing crisis. Soft pledges were at $2.25 million.

We will be running the campaign publicly, starting next Tuesday. Lots of information will be up on our web site. There's a really neat video that you can see. I love love for people to circulate, get this out, be ambassadors of the information. The more people we can get involved, the better.

I'm happy to answer questions.

**Karia  Wong:**   I'm a provider, so I would like to know how to help my folks apply.

**Amy Besunder:**   For housing? We have a pretty streamlined process on our web site. You can start there. It asks you a few simple questions and shows you which properties have availability. And then, once you get through that, your information is passed along to our property management staff, who asks for more information, and takes the person through the process. Are you thinking about the new buildings that are coming online? We're not at this point in time reserving spaces there, just because, as you know, there can be delays. We might open early. We might open late. We usually start the leasing process about 12 months in advance. So, keep an eye on the web site. [ <https://www.bellwetherhousing.org/> ]  We do post that information, especially with this many units coming online, we try to get out ahead of it.

**John Krull:**   Thank you very much for doing this. We need this, obviously.

**Amy Besunder:**   I'm pretty excited. We're going to be the first people to do a crowd fund to support nonprofit affordable housing.

**John Krull:**   On the technology front,  are the units going to come with internet access?

**Amy Besunder:**   All of our units do.

**John Krull:**   And that would be included?

**Amy Besunder:**   It's included in the overall cost of the rent. We did that at our last two buildings that we opened, Arbora Court and Anchor Flats.

**Dorene Cornwell:**  I know somebody who lives in Arbora Court and I'm not quite sure of all the pieces, but it wasn't exactly internet enabled on move in.

**Amy Besunder:**   That's absolutely true. We actually had to go back into the ground and rerun the cable, because there was a technology issue. But, you know what? We learned, and in the next four buildings, we'll do it better.

**Dorene Cornwell:**  Well, thank you. It's very cool.

**Karia  Wong:**   So, the rents? How about the rents? What is the range and how do you calculate?

**Amy Besunder:**   The range, essentially people pay 30 percent of their income. Many people come with a full subsidy, so they may pay nothing. But essentially, it's 30 percent of their income.

**Cass Magnuski:**  You have all of these other buildings in town, too. How many of them are wired for internet?

**Amy Besunder:**   I believe everything in our portfolio is wired for internet. That said, some of our buildings are older, and so have had to make some significant technology upgrades. There are a few in the portfolio, we have a pretty robust list of things that we update on a regular basis, so I know there are some in the portfolio that are due for another update.

**Cass Magnuski:**  I live in one of them, and it is not.

**Amy Besunder:**   Which one?

**Cass Magnuski:**  Gilmore.

**Amy Besunder:**   Oh, yeah. Gilmore is one of the older buildings.

**Cass Magnuski:**  I have to live with DSL.

**Steven Maheshwary:**   If you can't invest, or if for some reason someone doesn't want to invest but wants to support, what are other ways that they can engage?

**Amy Besunder:**   Sharing this through social media channels, inviting us to speak to a group like this, getting the word out, any sort of networking opportunities you can provide us to share what we're doing is very helpful, too. Come out to our events. Through our mailing list, we do a lot of advocacy work, and we need other folks in the community to support that work.

**Steven Maheshwary:**   For future building locations, how do you determine which neighborhoods and where you're going to build?

**Amy Besunder:**   Well, of course, mass transit is especially important to in making sure that people have access to mass transit. Some of it comes about because--two of these properties, the First Hill site and the site in Roosevelt, were Sound Transit sites that they RFP-ed out to nonprofits to develop affordable housing. So, there is some opportunistic things that determine how we go about it. Tukwila, in particular, we really knew we needed to do something in that community, so we were super aggressive about looking at every piece of land, buildings that we thought we could restore or renovate. We looked at land. We looked at all sorts of options, and finally found a piece of land that worked for us. Cost is always an issue, too. We have to be able to pencil out that we can build affordable housing. This $9 million that we're raising through philanthropy, $4.5 million of that through impact investment, is just a drop of what it takes to come together. Some of it is how we can stretch those public funds, too.

**Chance Hunt:**  I'm curious. You mentioned for some of the new buildings, there are nonprofits or service providers that are going to be onsite. That seems to indicate, perhaps, just any population living there. Is there an example of how that partnership came together?  How does that impact or promote the future tenants you need?

**Amy Besunder:**   This, again, is connected to our funding sources. Some of our funding sources say, specifically, "We want you to serve one of the populations I did mention at Roosevelt, which is a good example. We have 30 units set aside there for families experiencing homelessness as a result of moving to the area to get their children medical care. So, we had funding specifically for those units. So, we know that those families are going to have certain needs, and so we're making sure the partner there, Mercy Housing in that case, is well equipped to address those needs. Usually it follows on funding sources, or as a community recommendation. In Tukwila, their city government and the community groups we met with said, "Hey look. These are the service providers who provide culturally appropriate and relevant services. You need to bring them on board." We, personally, do not do service provision. We don't provide services. We have a resident services coordination program that connects people with services, but we are not an expert in that arena.

**Harte Daniels:**   This is a technology advisory board, and one of our major issues is digital equity through internet, and you want people to use technology to get your money. You also mentioned that you don't provide services. What else in the area of technology would you be helping those residents with? An example would be many people that are in low income are losing their opportunities to jobs, or their jobs to AI, to changing technology, etc. Is there any other groups, such as libraries or re-education or first education that support digital literacy and things of that nature that this board has been involved with?

**Amy Besunder:**   Again, our resident services coordination program connects people with programs that provide those services to our residents. We don't deliver it. In terms of digital technology services that we're offering, all of these buildings will have computer labs for our residents. We've been adding that in at Arbora Court, that has a computer lab. Anchor Flats has a computer lab. Our older buildings don't at this point in time.

**Harte Daniels:**   Would you be able to have your associates, the ones that are providing resources in education and help with economic uplift to be used through tech? Would you be willing to discuss it with your associates and make a list of those things? So that people who are doing that social media will have talking points that are relevant to the technology advisory board?

**Amy Besunder:**   Absolutely! Absolutely! I'm sure there's a lot more going on in that arena than I am aware of, and I probably should have briefed on it before coming here. But one thing that just comes to mind now, out at Arbora Court, we just finished a coding for kids class. That's a similar service that we connected in with through Wellspring Family Services. They brought them onsite, and Amazon actually sponsored everybody's tuition.

**Harte Daniels:**   I'd like to see some things on people being displaced and old people, as well. But these are wonderful stories, and I would encourage you to increase awareness of them so that people can be more aware of what your work is.

**Steven Maheshwary:**   You actually bring up a great point. On your Refunder page, it might also be helpful to just highlight some of the social impacts, things that are happening on those properties, because I think those are super compelling stories to include. Just to your other question about the other tech relevance angle, I think one of the big components is really this is the first point where the tech community can directly contribute to certain social impact issues. That is something that we have been interested in, too. And highlighting these areas where the broader community, including the tech community, maybe can have that connection to areas of social impact that aren't just technology issues, as well.

**Harte Daniels:**   I understand, but I am more interested in the uplifting of these families than taking care of the psychological needs of the tech workers from big tech industries in Seattle. And I think that if you include the broader public than just saying this is what big tech people want to hear, and if you're lucky enough to be selective through the discriminatory practices of some of these companies, it creates more of a divide than it create inclusion by emphasizing the tech workers kicking back money. Do you not understand what I'm saying? I'm looking at a more collaborative and a holistic, a bringing together, rather than isolating one particular group as contributing to these ideas. The stories, being broader and looking to the future and how these folks might have that future.

**Amy Besunder:**   Yes. Offer opportunities to folks. That's what we do. That's who we all are. And that's what we're all about.

**Dorene Cornwall:** I would say that any time you build affordable housing close to transit, even for workforce housing, that gives people more time so that they can work with their kids and do technology and not spend all of their time on the road, I'm always a big fan of that aspect of this kind of project.

**Steven Maheshwary:**   Great. If you can share the link or any other information, we can send it out through our minutes, and also to our distribution list.

**Amy Besunder:**   That would be great. Thank you.

**Steven Maheshwary:**   Thank you for coming in. Moving on to the next topic, the Democracy Lab Hack-a-thons.

**DEMOCRACY LAB HACK-A-THONS**

**Steven Maheshwary:**   We have around three more hack-a-thons that the Democracy Lab is hosting. We have attended the past hack-a-thons. I think maybe 'hack-a-thon' is probably a misnomer, given the event structure and how it's carried out, both online and offline, and given some of the feedback that we've heard from the community. But given that they have three more hack-a-thons and that we've had positive feedback from our participation there, I wanted to make a motion to continue co-organizing the Democracy Lab hack-a-thons for the balance of the year. So that means that we would just continue to support, as we have in the past, the three hack-a-thons that are coming up in July, in September and in November. Typically, what that has meant is we have been able to show up, help out with set-up organization or registrations, and then also continue to promote and talk about CTAB during opening remarks, and also just understanding and get a sense of the social impact technology projects that are being worked on as part of the organization and event. With that being said, does anyone else want to make a comment?

**Torgie Madison:** I would like to make a comment. I was able to volunteer with the Democracy Lab, and I would agree that calling it a hack-a-thon is probably a mis-labeling, just because the nature of the projects are a much larger scope than being able to sit down and finish it to completion in one session. It's almost more like a meet-up or meet and greet of people who are trying to develop socially conscious technology solutions. And it's just a kick-off point to have those conversations continue further, for a year out, possibly. So, despite the misbranding, I thought it a very worthwhile project. The ask of me was pretty minimal. It was just registration, putting a smiling face on at the front desk. CTAB had an opportunity to say a few words to the group. It was very well-attended, so I fully support it.

**Harte Daniels:**   Do you have any data on inclusivity? Do you have any data on the suggestions that I've made about inclusivity and best practices of Microsoft and others. Last time I went to their site, their description was the same as a hack-a-thon, so if that really has changed, you might want to express that. And since there is no indication that they're going to change, I have no comment other than that.

**Torgie Madison:** Well, we certainly wouldn't ignore you, but as far as....

**Harte Daniels:**   In my experience, working as one of the first innovation teams inside the federal government, when the White House asked us to do various things, there are methods of doing things that are already established and you wouldn't have to create something new, but I don't want to get involved in something where people are not interested in looking at other methods. Those are my only questions because of the history on that front from my going to the web site, looking at the pictures of who is involved, etc., my concerns are about inclusivity and other abilities, and if you have made those changes, I would recommend making some changes to the web site to bring other people along, and your thoughts on that and how you have risen to those interests.

**Torgie Madison:** For sure. I can reach out to see if there are metrics on on participation and inclusivity and any feedback about the way that the messaging on the web site could be more accurate to the actual event, I think is worthwhile. All of that I can forward on.

**Harte Daniels:**   I am more than happy to give you the data that will show you the other folks are doing with inclusivity, as well as taking things to fruition, that have arisen from ... the other point is instead of doing top down, have that group, themselves, bring it up. I don't want to take up the agenda, especially since I don't vote. I just wanted to say it's hard to make comments when the site don't reflect the changes.

**Torgie Madison:** Sure. I'll just quickly comment that when I attended the event, the format was the projects were pitched from the members who were attending, and then those projects were split off.

**Harte Daniels:**   I understand. We can talk later about how doing the pitch is very difficult for a large group of people. But go ahead.

**Steven Maheshwary:**   I just want to make sure that we've all seen the feedback. Were there lots of questions and comments from Karia and John?

**John Krull:**  I was just looking at some of the projects on my phone. I was about to ask what some of the projects were. It sounds good to me. I'm in favor of it.

**Steven Maheshwary:**   Karia, any comments or thoughts?

**Karia Wong:**  I just have one question, as John mentioned. I would like to know what kind of specific projects are on the list?

**Steven Maheshwary:**   It's on their web site, which is http://democracylab.org. I hadn't made that clear. If you go there, they have the projects that are ongoing collaborations that exist in between, during, before, and after the hack-a-thons, as well. You can also see the latest updates and skill sets that they need for each project, their latest milestones.

**John Krull:**  I have a comment about one of the projects that I saw. It's for making sidewalks successful.

**Steven Maheshwary:**   Yes, I think they have a number of projects that scan education, data set visualization, small business support in South Seattle. There is just a huge variety of topics, as well as a huge variety of skill sets needed from volunteers for those projects. With that, I will make a motion to continue co-organizing and supporting the Democracy Lab hack-a-thons for the balance of 2019, which includes the hack-a-thon in July, September, and November. Do I have a second?

**Torgie Madison:** I would second that.

**Steven Maheshwary:**   All in favor of passing the motion to support the Democracy Lab hack-a-thons, please say 'aye.'  Any abstentions? Any....

**Smriti Chandrashekar:**   Hi, Steven, this is Smriti. I'm on the phone, too.

**Steven Maheshwary:**   Hi, Smriti. Yes, go ahead.

**Smriti Chandrashekar:**   I said 'aye.'

**Steven Maheshwary:**   Great. With that, the motion passes. I just want to make sure we have all of the board members who are on the phone to say their name. Oh, is everyone on the phone? Okay. Charlotte, are you on the phone?

**Charlotte Lunday:**   Hey. I'm on the phone. I was outside, getting another call coming in. I also voted in the affirmative.

**Steven Maheshwary:**   So, it's unanimous. With that, the motion passes.  We will continue to support the Democracy Lab hack-a-thons. Next is another event series that we are lucky enough to partner with. We welcome Kreg Hasegawa, from the Seattle Public Library's Emerging Technology series.

**SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY EMERGING TECHNOLOGY SERIES**

**Kreg Hasegawa:**   Hello! My name is Kreg, and I'll be really quick. I've been putting on this Emerging Technology Series this year. It's been kind of a pilot for us. You guys promote it, so thank you very much. The first one was on Virtual Reality, and then we had one on Artificial Intelligence. Those were interesting. Last one was one on Blockchain. We had one on Digital Privacy in the last session. This month, on June 20, we'll be doing Cloud Computing. And then, in July, July 24, we will be doing a session on the Internet of Things. And then, on August 19, we have one on Robotics that's really interesting. I've been in touch with some of you about the other sessions for this year. If you are interested in presenting on something, or have an idea, or can get us in contact with some speakers, I can pay $100. That's my budget for speakers. It will be good to see audience.

When I initially thought of this program, I thought it would be a good way to keep our general audience up on the new technologies, but I found that we're getting a lot of people who are actually in the tech sector who are interested in new technologies from a different part of the tech sector. Some of you in the tech sector probably know this better than I, but these guys and girls are doing their technology all day, but at the end of the day, they want to learn the other technologies, knowing that the technology that they're working in is probably going to disappear in a couple of years. They are always looking for the new things, so it's been a very interesting new community for the Library to work with.

So that's about it. I don't know if anyone has any questions about it?

**Harte Daniels:**   What kind of speakers are you looking for?

**Kreg Hasegawa:**   Really anyone. I've been trying to highlight speakers who are of color and women.

**Harte Daniels:**   Instead of a particular technology [unintelligible]....

**Kreg Hasegawa:**   On the technical angle, I've been think about ways to do that well, because technology is such a broad thing.

**Harte Daniels:**   Check out Singularity University in San Francisco. It's a [unintelligible].... Technology is coming to a single point, so it's technology related but how does it affect the residents of Seattle and also the differences in how to affect relationships with older people, etc., etc., etc.

**Kreg Hasegawa:**   All right. Thank you very much.

**Steven Maheshwary:**   Can you remind me of the topics for the balance of the events this year?

**Kreg Hasegawa:**   June 20 is Cloud Computing; July 24 is Internet of Things; and then August 19 is Robotics. We're working on a few other ones.

**John Krull:**   What are your other ideas? Can you share those?

**Kreg Hasegawa:**   I'd love to do something around DNA. I've been having a very hard time finding someone who can talk about it. I don't know if any of you have been to the SIFF films. There's a documentary on SIFF about Crisper. And then there were some stories recently about this Chinese scientist who figured out a way to edit DNA strands to take out some bad stuff, but it ended up killing people. DNA would be very interesting, and something around Health Care would be interesting. Big Data would be a good topic, I think.

**Harte Daniels:**   I have several connections [unintelligible].... You can also look at [unintelligible]...., which is on Olive Street [unintelligible].... Its big bugaboo is on interoperability of data. You can make a connection there.

**Karia Wong:**  I wonder if you would consider talking to non-English speakers, for even ESL so people can learn English or other languages.

**Dorene Cornwell:**  I'm going to follow on that. One place, net.org, those would be some professionals, many of whom probably have some level of expertise and I think would be a really interesting area to talk about, automated translation.

**John Krull:**  Microsoft would be awesome at that. They're doing some great work with their immersive reader and their translate application.

**Steven Maheshwary:**   Is there a way for people to contact you in case they have ideas?

**Kreg Hasegawa:**   I brought some cards. I can give you a card. We just got some Webex software, so I am hoping I can start having them be online. That's been a sticking place, having things at the Central Library, starting at 6:00 p.m., there's traffic....

**Steven Maheshwary:**   We can't even get online.

**Kreg Hasegawa:**   I'm trying to figure out ways to have people attend. In terms of the translation thing, though, are you thinking about translating the sessions in real time.

**Karia Wong:**  The topics are not tailor made for immigrants. The topics that you mention are pretty high level, so I'm just wondering whether there are any topics that may be for people who ....

**Kreg Hasegawa:**   We do offer a number internet basics classes, and computer basics classes in multiple languages.

**Karia Wong:**  I'm not thinking about the classes, but about the hands-on tools.

**Dorene Cornwell:**  I have a suggestion. There's a Seattle Housing community in South Seattle where people speak Somali and Vietnamese, and I don't know what all.  In that environment, there are two areas that everybody needs to know something about. Laundry and trash. So, when I think about needs of the Housing Authority, around laundry and trash, part of my brain says, hey Microsoft, how would you deal with laundry and trash for the Housing Authority? Google! How would you deal with it. There are a bunch of different buildings and a lot of the buildings have the same laundry vendor. The trash issue is pretty much the same. So, it's partly a terminology management issue; it's partly how do you do the language disparity issue? And then we have some actual people who speak these languages, who ask, "Is this tool going to tell me enough to figure out how to do my laundry, the other point being that besides the residents who speak a bunch of different languages, the caregivers who Google 'laundry and trash' speak even still more different languages. So, it's kind of a hard problem, but it would be terribly interesting to see what people could do with it. I don't know that we'd have to do a hack-a-thon first, but it's a little bit the rubber meets the road. I don't know, Karia, if you had a different idea, like how to understand your rental conditions or something like that. Because there are these areas where doing something fast and credible would be very valuable, but you're not going to make money the same way as translating corporate communications and instant translations of PowerPoints.

**Steven Maheshwary:**   Just in the interest of time--this conversation is great--why don't we continue the conversation in the break. We can now break, and Kreg, if you want to pass out cards so that people can help out. We will break and return at 7:06 p.m.

**BREAK**

**Steven Maheshwary:**   Okay, guys, we're going to reconvene now that the break is over. John Krull is back. John, do you want to kick off the next item on our agenda about the Digital Equity Act?

**John Krull:**   Sure! I am John Krull, the co-chair with Karia Wong, of the Digital Equity subcommittee. We've been meeting over the last several months. We're working on a couple of items. The Digital Equity Tech Access and Adoption Study recommendations. The first one, the Digital Equity Act, was an act proposed by Senator Murray. Our principle writer on that was Dorene Cornwell, so Dorene is going to introduce that and take questions and comments.

**Dorene Cornwell:** Okay. Am I loud enough? If you can't hear me, you will have to yell because I won't see you, probably, if you have your hand up.

What we did, we wanted to encourage--the Digital Equity Act--I didn't prepare, and I brought documents in tiny print, so I'm going to a little bit wing it and rely on John and Karia to correct me if I get something wrong. The Digital Equity Act is cool in that it has for the first time some specific federal definitions. There's one on Digital Equity and I can't remember the other one. I think you all might be able to find it on the paper. It's intended to encourage states to have their own Digital Equity initiatives, so it's intended both to have a funding stream for state and governmental entities, and to have a funding stream for non-governmental entities, particularly if government entities aren't doing anything. It's fiscally sound, in that it doesn't want to spend more than five percent of the money allocated to administration, and it's specifically says that five percent of the funds have to be allocated to things that serve tribal concerns. All of those, for me, are strong and important points. Then, what we did was we basically wrote two letters, one to the Mayor and one to the City Council, saying we support this. This is an important initiative. We need to thank Senator Murray for introducing it, and would you please talk it up with your peer elected officials. We're encouraging them to help advocate for it. That is pretty much my outline. I think we're asking the board to approve sending these letters off as specified, but if you have any questions, one of us can probably answer it.

**Seferiana Day:**  Give us some time to read it. We can put it on the screen.

**Dorene Cornwell:** I can totally wait. Thank you, though.

**Karia Wong:**  I want to put things in perspective. Although Seattle is in a very advanced position in terms of Digital Equity, people have very limited [unintelligible].  What happens is when you look around, all resources have become digitalized. For instance, in March, there was a voucher that went out, and people can only sign up online. If you don't have the capacity, that means you won't be able to have access to it. Also, with a lot of migration from paper form to online form, people might not have the skills. That's why this is very important. It's to make sure that there will be resources for people to have access, not only to technology and the internet, but also to other resources.

**Dorene Cornwell:** I think that there is also a value in having a common definition to an important concept.

**Steven Maheshwary:**   Especially the fact that this is on a national scale, too, where other cities that aren't having the same conversations, I can see emphasis put on it by having a common definition and also by having funding placed directly for this. I think that's awesome, and I'm glad that we are, hopefully, going to be supporting this officially.

**John Krull:**  I have one correction, and I might have messed up. I just had one address to Mayor Durkan. The other one is for our recommendations and that was to City Council. But, we could do  two letters, one to the Mayor like this, and just do another one. I don't know if it's appropriate to put both on there.

**Karia Wong:**  I think I saw something like this before.

**Dorene Cornwell:** I guess it's up to the board, but I think asking the Mayor to do what we're asking....

**Steven Maheshwary:**   Or we can just have one letter that is to the Mayor and another one that's sent out to City Council, and just do a little bit of wordsmithing. And I think that we could just approve it with the assumption that we would just do minor tweaks.

**Torgie Madison:**  Okay. Then it would be two letters, one to City Council and another to the Mayor.

**John Krull:**  Any suggestions on edits or anything? I make a motion that the board approve the letter  for support for the Digital Equity Act of 2019 to both Mayor Jenny Durkan and the Seattle City Council in two letters, with minor revisions.

**Steven Maheshwary:**   I second.

**John Krull:**  All in favor?  {[Motion passes.] Thank you, everyone.

**Steven Maheshwary:**   Let's move on to the Tech Access and Adoption Study Recommendations, from John and Karia. Actually, just to close it out, will we coordinate on sending an email to the Mayor and City Council? We need email addresses for that stuff.

**John Krull:**  I think sending physical and email might be good. What have you guys done before?

**Steven Maheshwary:**   Usually, in our annual letter that we send out at the beginning of the year that we send out as a board, I have emailed it to City Council, and to the Mayor, as well as their staff. I don't have a lot of confidence in their physical letter reading.

**Seferiana Day:** Somebody used to read those letters. You could do both. And you could be simple by dropping it off in person, and saying, "Can you pass this out to all of the Council members?" Then they'd get it in their mailbox.

**Steven Maheshwary:**   Torgie and myself will be at the Governance Equity in Technology Commission next Tuesday for reappointments, and so we can actually hand off that letter there, as well.

**John Krull:**  Okay. And then for the emails, as a [PDF] inside an email, right?

**Steven Maheshwary:**   Or attached to an email.

**John Krull:**  Yes, that's right.

**Seferiana Day:** And then, the email you send to the Mayor, you should cc: Saad on it.

**John Krull:**  Okay, perfect. Moving onto the next one, I know Torgie would probably with his letter, we used your template--probably knows that this takes more time than it looks like, because, you know we meet monthly, and we work on it a little in between, but we really put a lot of thought into this. I went to several meetings with Chance Hunt, we read the pamphlet pretty closely, we spent a lot of time poking around the dashboard. We did not go into the raw data. That is still on my future list. But, really with this, what our hope was as a board, was to maybe help maybe Seattle IT and the City Council, just from our reading of it, what are some low hanging fruit that could possibly be things that we could address right away. Because, really, there's a lot of angles you could take with this study. That was really our goal, to look at this. As you see here, we found some common themes that we thought--we wanted to narrow it down from those pamphlets just to  maybe help with low hanging fruit, and pull out some things that came to us. What we tried to do, we followed the template that Torgie's group did. We tried to just do comments. Comments for us were facts that we gleaned out that we thought were important. And then, recommendations were based on that: Here's what we think the City should do. So, with that, I'll pass it over to Kristen Hoffman from Seattle Pacific University, because I think her group really helped make this possible. There were other members from the community, but they kind of went the extra mile.

**Kristen Hoffman:**  Liz Gilbert and I were happy to attend the meetings across several months, where we would work on this. And then, we also worked  on the document a little bit in our class that we are teaching. During our class sessions, we were able to bring up the dashboard and look through data. We got initial reactions from our students and what they were seeing in the data. It was great to have some extended conversations at the meetings, especially about community members whose primary languages were other than English, community members living with a disability. We were seeing how poverty really runs across the spectrum of all of these issues, and addressing access to technology for those who live in poverty could make a huge difference. A lot of those were initial recommendations that were in that initial brochure, but we just wanted to pull out some of those main issues. One of the main ones that we worked on was on the community members who were experiencing homelessness, or who are insecurely housed, because that is a big issue that we're really involved with at Seattle Pacific. We have a homelessness committee there. We've been able to host a tent city there on campus a few times, so that's something that we're fully involved in. We just felt that gathering data, more data, in different ways, from a couple different sources, we learned that certain populations just don't do well with surveys. There needs to be another way of gathering data. So, we are recommending doing further studies, and I'm sure that there are a lot of different ways to do that. I wanted to see if maybe there could be partnerships with different organizations. Even at SPU, we have faculty members who are doing research with Tent City III and with other homelessness populations, and see who we could partner with to be able to gather a little bit more of this data. So overall, it was a great decision that the City has done a lot, especially in these certain areas where more work needs to be done.

**Harte Daniels:**   If you have a question on other ways to survey, etc., you might contact Mr. Weingrass of the EPA. And the Indigenous Homeless Researchers and the specific Native American School of Social Work at UW. We have to be able to reach people who wouldn't ordinarily respond [unintelligible]....

**Dorene Cornwell:**  I think the point of the recommendations here is about this one. But those seem like important resources.

**John Krull:**  I don't know how we are on time. I don't want to read this to you, but if we want to march down it real quick and see if people have comments or questions on each area. We really had some primary language other than English. Karia, do you want to do the highlights for that one?

**Karia Wong:**  Basically, when you look at the statistics [unintelligible].... primary language is Spanish. And also 65 who are speaking Chinese. But when you look at the demographics in the City, that representation is very small. That might be something, to put people into specific language groups of people who were not able to fill out the survey, to find out why they were not able.

**John Krull:**  Okay, going through the rest, if you guys could look at that quietly and pipe up if you have any questions or comments.

**Cass Magnuski:**   Under the Volunteers on the first page, there are two names that are misspelled that I can see. One is Dorene, which should be Cornwell, not Corwell. The other one is Dan Mouton, who has become Harte Daniels, in the minutes, at least, and that is misspelled, too.

**John Krull:**  Thank you.

**Torgie Madison:**  I just have a quick comment, the comments under the Community Members Who Are Experiencing Homelessness, they might have just been cut up in formatting.

**John Krull:**  Where is that?

**Torgie Madison:**  Page three. The Comments section has bulletted items, but no comments. Maybe just for consistency. But other than that, it looks well-researched and I really like the recommendations.

**Harte Daniels:**   Missing in action, as far a future recommendations on a survey of this nature, people that are impacted by changes that put them into insecure situations via impoverishment or homelessness, again, losing their jobs, etc., by the effects of tech. But that's a future one, and I'm not certain that that would go into recommendations for future surveys. You have a large number of seniors that are actually paying off the debts of their 22 and 24 year old computer science graduates, etc., and I think that issue of debt to try to keep a job is well known, and how it impacts people. But those are recommendations for a future survey and not comments on this particular survey.

**John Krull:**  Chance, what is your opinion?

**Chance Hunt:**  I am very happy to get the review and the comments that you have provided. They really do pinpoint to key areas. I would say that limitations, not only in the survey and the exercise, but also we are dependent on people responding ultimately, and that's what the data represents. It's who responded. That said, and I'll just point out that this isn't intended to be a population survey. It wasn't intended to try to drill into particular language groups or age groups or whatever it might be. In some cases, you can because of the number of respondents. But in general, it's a population level survey and the furthest you can drill down is at the Council District level, so just bear that in mind. But I think that the comments you are adding, in terms of being able to get into the more unique needs of some of these specific user groups is incredibly important. Since the survey was conducted, and since the data has come out, a few things are already happening because of the information we've gathered, one is when we did the survey last summer, the tiny home villages, none of them were equipped with internet. Now, I don;'t know if all of them are, but the majority of them are, thanks to the work of [unintelligible]. So, if we go back into those places today, we will get different responses from at least that population. So, that's a change that's occurred since the survey was administered. We are doing, as you heard in the presentation earlier, about Bellwether Housing and their commitment to internet in unit, that's not a commitment that Seattle Housing Authority has, but they are committing to--I think it's going to be eventually rolled out in 64 different properties, WiFi in common areas in the lobbies. That's something that wasn't present before, just trying to invest differently in those properties, as well as adding classes and some other things. So that will get to some of what this is suggesting, as far as reaching out to particular populations, at least the potential to do that.

The other thing I wanted to point out, and that has to do with, I would say, relationship with other City departments. So whether that's the Human Services Department, or the Department of Education Early Learning, and others, who are serving some of these client groups, they, frankly, are in a much better position to reach those residents than Seattle IT is. What we've been utilizing the data to do is really the beginning, a refreshed talking point or conversation with City departments, whether that's the Library, or some of these others. The great conversation with your tech advisory group and Seattle Public Schools, was one of the best of all the public presentations we've done, actually, because there is a great awareness of what people have individually, but not always understanding the essentiality of technology. And as you were just pointing out, Karia, in order to take advantage of a program, I've got to be online. What if I can't be online, or I don't know how to do online, how do I take advantage of the program? So, the City, itself, needs to learn from its own data. So that's really been an emphasis of ours. We're optimistic about some things that we'll be able to do related to the Promise Initiative. That particular target group of students. Also, what we're hoping to do with Seattle Housing Authority, as I mentioned. Getting to that last five percent, if that's the magic number, that being the hardest piece to complete. And within that 95 percent of connectivity that's noted in the data, that's a wide range of what it means to be connected. It's not like electricity, whether it's on or off. If it's on, you have electricity. If it's off, you don't. Internet connectivity is everything in between. And those are some of the conversations that are now occurring because of this version of the survey, some of this commentary. So, I think your interest in sharing your feedback, especially to the Mayor's Office and also City Council, is, I think, viable. Because it's going to take that high level, that political level championing, either to dedicate resources, to say let's take care of that issue, really starts to make some significant impact specifically for that remaining group. Those with the highest needs or those with unique needs. You saw a lot of what we saw. I think it pointed out and raised attention to something that we definitely welcome. So, thank you for your efforts on that.

**Steven Maheshwary:**   I'm really glad that we had the support of not just board members, but community members and the Digital Equity subcommittee, who helped make this happen. That's just a testament to the community's interests. With that, would you like to make a motion?

**John Krull:** I move that we pass this letter to both the Mayor and City Council, , again with slight edits, so that we can address it to them separatelyhat we as a board approve this to go forward.

**Karia Wong:** I second.

**John Krull:**  All in favor of moving this letter forward to the Mayor and City Council with slight edits, please say 'aye.' All opposed? All right. Thank you everybody. [Motion passes.]

**Steven Maheshwary:**   Okay, great! Now we move on to Committee Updates. Maitreyee, do you want to speak for Smart Cities?

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**SMART CITIES COMMITTEE**

**Maitreyee Joshi:**   Yes! Smart Cities is continuing its work on the two projects. The first is Facial Recognition and the seconod is [unintelligible] For the last meeting, we came up with a bunch of issues and did a bunch of research on them. For this upcoming meeting, we will be coming up with recommendations for those specific issues that we've researched. We're going to need to field those  recommendations and refine the paper. We have a lot going on. Hopefully, at the next meeting or two, we should have the initial draft.

**Steven Maheshwary:**    And when is your next meeting?

**Maitreyee Joshi:**   It is next Tuesday. Also, our meetings are moved to Tuesday now, so it is the third Tuesday of the month, and are hosted in the WeWork office on Fourth Avenue near Westlake. If any of you want to join, let me know, and I'll put you on the email list.

**John Krull:**  Did you see that article in the New York *Times*about facial recognition where they turned it on on some square? They just figured out who this professor was, tracked him down. That was really interesting.

**Maitreyee Joshi:**    Yes. We covered a lot of research in different fields, inaccuracy, all of these other problems that exist. So now we're trying to come up with recommendations.

**Harte Daniels:**  Are you aware that the State of Washington DOL uses Facial Recognition?

**Maitreyee Joshi:**     DOL?

**Harte Daniels:**   Department of Licensing.

**Maitreyee Joshi:**     Oh, yes, that's a another point. If you guys have any -- we're trying to make this as specific to Seattle as possible. There are already a lot of recommendations that have been put out there nationwide that are good, but generic. There are special needs that Seattle has, so if you guys know about things that are going on in Seattle, we'd like to hear about it.

**Steven Maheshwary:**    Is the final intention to have CTAB provide official support for it with the Mayor and City Council, similar to these letters?

**Maitreyee Joshi:**      Yes. Similar to these letters. we would like to do that. We would also like to put it online so that we can hopefully work with any other groups that are here in Seattle> The more people that we get to support this, the more influence we will have.

**Steven Maheshwary:**    All right. Moving on to our next committee, Privacy, Torgie?

**PRIVACY COMMITTEE**

**Torgie Madison:**   The update will be pretty brief this time. I was out of the country for a good chunk of May. I don't think there is any more public comment period on the technologies for the Surveillance Ordinance. I don't believe they've released the public comment yet. Not sure when it will be. What we're doing right now is trying to focus on the panel discussion. I've been working a bit with Kreg Hasegawa and seeing if there is a way to blend the Emerging Technologies 101 series and maybe just lease the space. Hopefully, for the rest of June and July, we'll be planning the discussion topics, getting speakers or panelists committed. Then, perhaps August or September, when there's availability in the room and various schedules line up, stars align and all of that, we can go ahead and host the discussion. I note that in the past, panel discussions have taken the place of a CTAB meeting. I don't know if that was the expectation this time.

**Steven Maheshwary:**    You could do it during the CTAB meeting. We've done that typically because it's easier to block out that time for a CTAB event, but it could take place any other time.

**Torgie Madison:**   Okay. So that's the idea there.

**Steven Maheshwary:**    Joe sent an update.

**Torgie Madison:**   Thank you for reminding me. The last update is that Joe Wooley, who is a member of the Community Surveillance Working Group, which was introduced as part of the O'Brien amendment to the Surveillance Ordinance. That group is chaired by Shankar Narayan of the ACLU of Washington, and we just got a statement of commitment saying that they're going to give us minutes and results of those meetings as they happen, to enhance communication between CTAB and networking groups. So we should have a fair amount of communication going with that group going forward, which is nice. I think that covers it.

**Steven Maheshwary:**     Awesome! Given that we've had extensive public comment throughout the meeting, we'll condense the public comment period into five minutes. I'd like to open the public comment period by noting that one of our long-time members, Karia Wong, will be done with CTAB officially as a member, as of this meeting. This is her last meeting. It has been a privilege to be in meetings with you and hear your experience and expertise, especially as a Digital Equity champion for your community, not just in meetings, but in all of the events that we've had. That passion has resonated with the rest of the community, so we're very happy and thankful for your time on the board.

**Karia Wong:**   Thank you. And I will be around.

**Cass Magnuski:**   You have been around for at least 20 years.

**Karia Wong:**    That's right. Ever since I graduated from college.

**Steven Maheshwary:**     Is there anyone else who would like to say anything on the phone or in the room?

**Harte Daniels:**   Chance has left, but I was very grateful to see Chance Hunt, Delia Burke, and David Keyes at the Ability Summit. There is a lot there that CTAB can...I'm sorry that nobody else could make it there to interact face to face, but I've given things to John Krull and others, and his organization has to [unintelligible] on a daily basis. But I think it's a great opportunity to check out the best practices that are available. Maybe next year somebody from the board might wish to attend.

**John Krull:**   Seattle Public Schools was able to attend. We had about six of us there. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend.

**Harte Daniels:**   It would be wonderful to hear from your people and John's people on Digital Equity and access. But that's for the future. And thank you, Karia. Great work.

**John Krull:**    I wanted to  announce that tomorrow night, our board is voting on a $12 million project to go one to one to all of our high schools, starting with 1,000 Hotspots for people in need. In K through 8, we're putting 15 computers in every classroom. It should help with Digital Equity, we hope.

**Steven Maheshwary:**     That's a huge commitment.

**Torgie Madison:**   I can make a comment about that. I remember one of the first computers I had or touched was Apple IIe. It was actually middle school. There was a green and black Apple IIe monitor and I was able to poke at it, and got fascinated with it. I was coding in Logo, I think. Having access to a computer in the classroom can be very impactful for young people.

**Mark DeLoura:**  Hey, John?  I think that's amazing, first off. Are tehre any details on what kind of computers that are intended for local schools? Are you guys working on Chromebooks, iPads, Windows machines, or a mix?

**John Krull:**    Good question. We put a lot of thought into that. We had been using low-end Windows, Pentium machines, and we found out that in the high school, that wasn't really cutting it. So, in high schools, we're moving to an i5, pretty good machine in about the $750 price point. Middle school, we're sticking with a lower end Windows machine. And, in elementary, we're switching to Chromebooks with an option to have iPads in K-2, if that's something your school is doing. Those will be touch-enabled Chromebooks. And the Windows machines in middle school.

**Harte Daniels:**   That's in the school, because Chromebook requires you to have internet access.

**John Krull:**    Right.

**Harte Daniels:**   So, they wouldn't be able to use them out of school, if they don't have internet access at home.

**John Krull:**    Right. Right now, in elementary, we're not  sending them home. You can learn more at  http://seattleschools.org/dots.

**Karia Wong:**  Are there any plans to send the computers home with the elementary school students?

**John Krull:**    It might be on a one-off basis, but not distrcit-wide.

**Karia Wong:**  Because I know of some schools where kids might not have computers at home.

**John Krull:**    We'll probably look at that afterwards.

**Steven Maheshwary:**     Great! With that said, just to summarize, we have approved two letters, the Digital Equity Act letter of support, as well as a letter of recommendations on the Technology Access and Adoption Study. Those have been approved to be sent to the Mayor and City Council on behalf of all of CTAB, which is great. A couple of events coming up: We have the next SPL Emerging Technology series event on Cloud Computing on June 20. We have the Smart Cities next meeting on net Tuesday at the WeWork office in downtown on 4th. When is the next Privacy Committee meeting?

**Torgie Madison:**  It hasn't been scheduled, but if it is going to be scheduled, it will be the last Tuesday of the month, which will be the 25th of this month. If I can get that scheduled in time. I haven't been back for that long. I'll send out a mailing to the list.

**John Krull:**    Digital Equity is the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Chinese Information Center, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**Steven Maheshwary:**     Awesome! With that, the meeting is adjourned.