**July 14, 2020 Meeting - Seattle Community Technology Advisory Board**

Topics covered included:

**This meeting was held:** July 14, 2020; 6:00-7:45 p.m., via Skype/Lync

**Attending:  (All via Skype)**

**Board Members:** Torgie Madison, Rene Peters, Steven Maheshwary, John Krull, Brandon Lindsey, Jonathan Porat, Katie Crimmins, Tyler Woebkenberg,

**Public:** Councilmember Alex Pedersen, Adam Owen, Tyrone Grandison, Dorene Cornwell, Meghan Sebold, Harte Daniels, David Namura, Nicole Espy, Kitty Wu, Kurtis Heimrl, Luke Lucas, Camille Malonzo, Cara Vallier, B.H., Reese Tanimuro, Esther Jang, Amin Amos, plus several on phones

**Staff:** Trayce Cantrell, Alice Lawson, Nadiya Browne (SPL), David Keyes, Delia Burke, Vicki Yuki , Brenda Tate, Vinh Tang, Cass Magnuski

**34+ In Attendance**

**Torgie Madison:**  All right. We can get started. We've got about 31 people. We have a very exciting review planned for you today. We're going to do something a little different today. For the past half-year, six months or so, you've been hearing my voice a lot in leading these meetings. And I thought that we could mix it up and have our vice chair, the very capable Rene Peters, run the meeting this time around. So, with no further ado, I will hand it over to Rene.

**Rene Peters:**  Thanks, Torgie. A quick housekeeping item for Cass: Are we recording this meeting for audio for the minutes?

**Cass Magnuski:**  I am.

**Rene Peters:** Just so everybody know, just for the ease of minute taking, we're recording for audio. The audio, itself, won't appear on the CTAB web site, but the transcript of the meeting will. Thanks for the kind intro, Torgie. It's been a great two months, hopefully for everybody, since the last time we met in May. Hope you had a restful and thoughtful two months since the last time we met. We had a great AI panel with Nate Johannes, and we also talked about the 2020 Census, which was a great session, as well. In the month of June, we encouraged folks to just take some time to think about the backdrop of the shifts going on around the country and in our communities, and about how we -- you know, we mentioned the push for change in the justice system, which isn't necessarily disconnected from the work that we're doing here on the board. All of these aspects are interwoven, and tech is just one edge of how to address these. And so, we hope that folks enjoyed the materials that we sent out to the board last month. And similarly, which Torgie tipped his hat to, I think you'll really enjoy our talk today, as we consider how shifts in the landscape, due to Covid, have underlined the need for broadband and equity. So we have Councilmember Alex Pedersen, who has very kindly agreed to join us tonight to talk a little about his Internet for All resolution. But, before we get to that, I would love to just do a very quick round of introduction to go around the horn here, and I'll start with the presenters and then named attendees, and then I'll go through the phone numbers that are guests on the call. And I'll call out the last four digits of the phone number. So, if everybody could just give their name and organization they're representing?

**INTRODUCTIONS**

**Rene Peters:** (Few answers.)  Are all of the attendees muted right now, so we can't do introductions in the normal way. Is that right?

**Torgie Madison:**  The photo icon is greyed out.

**Rene Peters:** Okay, now I've just had a notification that we have unmuted the audience. Okay, we just got a notification from Councilmember Alex Pedersen that he has a hard stop at 6;45, so Cass, is there anything stopping us from just accelerating the agenda and skipping the intros?

**Cass Magnuski:**   Nope!

**Rene Peters:** Excellent, so let's dive right in. As I mentioned, we have Alex Pedersen to talk to us about the Internet for All resolution that he's currently pushing. CTAB, just for everybody's background, falls under the Transportation and Utilities Committee within City Council, and this is chaired by Alex Pedersen. So, that makes him sort of our stakeholder, and additionally as our Council contact. As he has this Internet for All solution, I will go ahead and give Alex the floor. We will follow up with questions afterwards.

**INTERNET FOR ALL**

**Councilmember Alex Pedersen:**  Thank you very much, Rene, and thanks, everybody for your work on the advisory board, It's really important to the City that you're doing this work, and that you've been so dedicated to this. And you're bringing your expertise to bear on this issue. Technology impacts so many aspects of our life now, and the focus recently has been the fact that, with Covid forcing people to stay home, a lot of people are realizing that their connectivity wasn't what they thought it was. We're a City that prides itself on leading the world in technology, but we have seen that there are inequities. The digital divide is still painfully with us and has been laid bare by this pandemic. It has been making it difficult for people to learn from home, to work from home, to do their business from home. And so, we need to focus on getting universal access that is affordable and reliable for everyone in Seattle. It's a social justice issue. It's an education issue. It's an economic development issue.

So, as Rene pointed out, the committee that I chair works on transportation issues, utility issues, and technology issues. What I did was I put forward a resolution to proclaim City Hall's aspirational goal to have universal access to reliable, affordable internet. This resolution is a roadmap to getting there. There is a lot of work that needs to be done between now and then. And it builds upon the work that others have done. It's not pretending that work has not been done on this. A lot of progress has been made by the current Mayor, the previous Mayors. Vinh Tang, who is on the call now, worked for Councilmember Bruce Harrell, who did a lot of work. other efforts and resolutions have been put forward. Now, we've got a new City Council, sworn in in January, just seven months ago, and we want to reiterate that this is an important goal for us and that we want to achieve more progress.

The Technology Access Report that was done a couple of years ago showed that there had been a lot of positive movement toward increasing access. Numbers in the 90 percentile about people having access. However, in a City of 750,000 people, and 350,000 households, if you are lacking access by 10 percent, that's 35,000 households. Lacking sufficient access, I should say. That was the other thing laid bare during the Covid pandemic, is what's really sufficient. Having somebody with access on their phone, that household has access, but what about the kids who are home trying to learn remotely, or others in the household that need that access during this time, whether they're applying for unemployment benefits, or trying to work from home now?

So this resolution is just the restarting of efforts from the City Council perspective. Obviously, our executive branch has an information technology department and they are already doing work. They have digital divide work that they are doing. The private sector has stepped up some of their subsidy programs during Covid. And we want to work with all partners here to increase access and get us closer to this goal of universal access to affordable, reliable broadband. This resolution, which is online at City Council, or you can get it from my blog. It has a bunch of WHEREASes, so it's sort of setting the table for what's going on right now, but then it leads into what we propose to do.  I know it's been mentioned by a lot of people: Hey, this issue has been studied to death, so we're not going to spend a lot of time studying the issue, as much as putting together a plan to do something about it. So, there will be a gap analysis to make sure we've got the latest information. The information we have is pretty recent. We're going to look at lessons learned from other cities which have attempted various strategies for increasing access, and that includes municipal broadband that has been tried elsewhere. The heart of this is what we're calling the action plan, which is to actually lay out details for how the City is going to expedite getting to universal access. And that's going to involve leveraging the partnerships that we already have, creating new ones, whether that's with philanthropy, business community, academia, the City departments that we have. King County is trying to do things, as well, to close the digital divide. We'll look at infrastructure needs, what are the infrastructure needs that we have to make this happen? What are the resources that we need? So, putting together a budget and a timeline. And then, whatever we do, we want to make sure that we're evaluating it to make sure it's successful.

Again, this resolution is just to relaunch this goal under this new City Council, to show that we care about this issue greatly. There are inequities that need to be addressed. But, once the resolution is passed, the real work comes from the action plan, which will follow later.

So, I wanted to make my remarks brief. For a Councilmember, that was actually brief. I'll open it up to questions, because we want your support for this, and we need your expertise for this. So, I really look forward to working with all of your on the board, and I'm excited about your newest appointee, as well, Dr. Grandison, who is on the call, as well.

**Rene Peters:**   Thanks so much for those remarks, Alex. And, yes, we'll definitely welcome Tyrone Grandison. Let's move on to the questions and answers. For time considerations, we're going to limit the questions to the actual board members themselves. And a note to the board members, if you guys are too quiet, I do have a list of focus areas that you submitted earlier that I can draw from. With that, we'll open up the floor to board members to ask questions.

**John Krull:**   I'll go first. This is John. I'm wondering, perhaps, how the City is going to coordinate with other efforts and monies coming from other areas, federal and state, money from Olympia, efforts from the school district. How are you getting all of these resources all pointing in the same direction for the City? How is that going to work?

**Councilmember Alex Pedersen:**  Thank you for that question, John. I believe you were at the school district for a while, right?

**John Krull:**   Yes, exactly.

**Councilmember Alex Pedersen:**  Okay. This is really important, so making these partnerships, optimizing, maximizing these partnerships. That is one of the goals that is spelled out in the resolution. That we need to maximize these partnerships. It includes the different sources of funding and different entities here at different levels of government. That would be laid out in the action plan for how best to coordinate that. One of the benefits of my committee is that, at least at the City government level, for the first time we have technology in with the same committee as Seattle City Light and the Department of Transportation. So, to the extent that we need to coordinate with those agencies, that's already an improvement over the past structures that we've had here, that those departments are together. But, I think one of the key issues here is -- and one of the key questions to just get right to it is am I proposing municipal broadband. And the answer is we're not prejudging what the outcome will be here. We know that there are costs and challenges to a City-owned utility, and there have been mixed results when that's been attempted elsewhere. So, we're starting with an open mind. We really want to maximize the leverage, the funding, and the partnerships that are out there, and not start with municipal broadband out of the gate, but to be open to that as we learn more. But again, we know that the costs of that -- you know, we don't want perfect to be the enemy of good here, we want to move the needle and increase access with partnerships that are already available to us.

**John Krull:**   Thank you.

**Torgie Madison:**   I would like to ask a question. This is Torgie Madison. I was at the top of the meeting and introduced myself as the chair of CTAB. This was actually brought to my attention by Mark DeLoura, who is another board member. I don't think he is here now. Mark, if you're here and dialed in with a phone number, would you speak up? There are $18 million to bring broadband to unserved Washington communities. It passed in Olympia. The Washington State Public Works Board. Is there a plan to write an application? Does Seattle qualify to get access to some of that $18 million?

**Councilmember Alex Pedersen:**  While we definitely want to go out for sources of funding that are out there, I think that the intent of that funding is probably for rural areas that have no access. We have in Seattle a lot of access compared to some other parts of Washington State. The question is, is it adequate access? Is it reliable? Is it affordable? And for those who don't have sufficient access here in Seattle, is it a race and social justice issue and a disproportionate outcome that we need to address? Whereas I think that state money out of Olympia is probably for rural areas that have zero access.

But again, the action plan will look at that. There will be a budget called for in the action plan. It's not just how to spend the money, but it's also the sources of revenues and grants and other in-kind contributions.

**Torgie Madison:**   All right. Thank you very much.

**Rene Peters:**  Any other questions from the board?

**Councilmember Alex Pedersen:**  For each question that you ask, I try to answer to my best ability here, as an elected official. But I think the universal answer is also what do you think? We would like to hear your advice on how to do these things in the best way. I want to lean on your expertise as an advisory board as we start to get into the details. This is more of a resolution. It's more stating our aspirational goal, making it top of mind for City Councilmembers, and signaling that we care about it and want to devote time and energy toward this. But, as we get into an action plan, and we get into details, we want to lean on you more.

**Torgie Madison:**   I know that Brandon Lindsey had quite a few good questions as we were brainstorming earlier. I see a grey icon next to his name there, so I'm wondering if he had some questions. I don't want to put him on the spot.

**Rene Peters:**  He said that the phones are muted. As we figure out our tech issues, I'll go ahead and read from the first question. You sort of mentioned a little bit about how is this issue really going to shape up? Does it become a race and equity kind of thing? How are you conceptualizing making sure that the communities with the most need of free and affordable broadband are getting access first. What is your priority there?

**Councilmember Alex Pedersen:**  We want to make sure that as we increase access, make it more affordable, make it more reliable, that it's through a race and social justice lens, so that it's addressing the disproportionality that exists today. That's a problem that needs to be fixed right away. Those living in poverty are five times more likely to not have internet access. That's a problem. Those who are not white are almost two times more likely not to have internet access. And so, the community organizations that work with communities of color, work with immigrants, we want to tap those organizations to help us make sure we're, as we increase access, doing it in an equitable way.

**Rene Peters:** Thanks for that. And I think we have finally got Brandon free from mute.

**Brandon Lindsey:**   Can you hear me?

**Rene Peters:** Yes. Perfect.

**Brandon Lindsey:**   Thank you for that answer there. I have another question about, as we go to 5G, as we move away from cable and such, what kinds of opportunities and challenges do you see there for future connectivity?

**Councilmember Alex Pedersen:**  Yes. That will also come out with the action plan. I'm viewing it more as a patchwork. Whatever we can do to increase reliable, affordable access, we want to do that. With 5G, the use of our utility poles and that type of capability, we are going to be relying on expertise from you as well, on the cutting edge of technology, and how best to connect people. So we want to be open to that and make sure we're ahead of that.

**Brandon Lindsey:**   Thank you. I have another question. I worked for a long time with Seattle Goodwill and our community programs, but I'm also with Seattle Public Schools. There have been such disparities in the differences between all these experiences of parents in the different schools in the different areas, so I know that my particular school, Beacon Hill Elementary, is working very hard just to get students computers and the internet. Even after three or four months, there were still double digit families that didn't have that kind of access or devices. I just think a lot of work is being done, and I would hate to go backwards. I don't know how the City functions in this time of Covid. It doesn't feel to me like we're going to be back in school. There's really like another six weeks. I know this is a longer term resolution, but how does the City want to coordinate? What's the plan to work with Seattle Public Schools and their families in the short term? An action plan takes a long time.

**Councilmember Alex Pedersen:**  Yes, this is a long-term plan. This action plan is going to take time, and it's not meant to deal with the immediate. The immediate crisis has made the digital divide painfully obvious, even though by some measures, by that survey that was done a couple of years ago, there is 90 percent access. But, I think that the pandemic has made it clear that that's not the right percentage, that people are still able to do what they need to do and get sufficient, reliable, affordable access -- the pandemic has made that apparent. For the City government to do things, we need time to put together the appropriate plan and it's not meant to solve the immediate situation.

**Brandon Lindsey:**   Thank you.

**Torgie Madison:**   It looks like Cass Magnuski, our minutes taker, has a question. She asks why was this rejected originally.

**Councilmember Alex Pedersen:**  I think that at the last City Council there were a couple of resolutions about expanding internet access that didn't get any traction. Is that what you're talking about? Last year and the year before, maybe? As I understand it, that was framed more as -- at least one of the ideas was framed as a municipal broadband proposal. And I think it was because of the cost analysis done a couple of years ago was just considered too expensive for the City government to take on municipal broadband out of the gate. I don't know if that's what you mean by being rejected previously. I think that the benefit of this resolution is it's more open minded in terms of what the actual method would be to provide that internet access universally. It's not saying out of the gate that it has to be municipal broadband because we recognize the costs are difficult. So, let's see what we can do in the mid-term. I was trying to read the thread here. I don't know, Cass, if that answers your question.

**Torgie Madison:** Thank you.

**Rene Peters:**  We had another question regarding our focus areas. When you think about digital equity, this question about language. What are your thoughts on approaches to bridging language barriers, because non-English speaking communities also are more likely to lack internet access?

**Councilmember Alex Pedersen:**  Sure. To get back to Cass' question, I think I understand where Cass is coming from now. But, in terms of the language barrier, so we will engage culturally competent technical assistance, and culturally competent community based organizations who will help to engage with communities whose first language is not English so that they can connect to the services of digital literacy and technical assistance to get started, and then also, digital literacy to have an ongoing, positive relationship with internet access so that they are able to use it. It's really leaning on those organizations to know those communities, who are of those communities, who can provide that access. We have the same situation with the Seattle Pre-School Program, which I worked on when I was a legislative aide. It is very important to have that cultural competency with the pre-school teachers, and to have dual language programs, as well. And so we want to lean into those organizations, who can do it much better than the City government can. In fact, this is a huge barrier, so it's one of the purposes of this resolution. That's why we need to expand universal. We need to get to universal. That includes people for whom English is not their first language.

I want to get back to Cass' question real quick. So, I think one of the concerns is that the corporations out there that provide internet access today, while they have stepped up their game during Covid and provided additional subsidies, I think that they are leery of City government getting too involved in this, because they want to make sure they are getting their profits from what they're doing as private sector operators. One of the things that I am interested in doing is the benefits that they are providing during Covid, to see if those could be extended and made permanent post-Covid. So that people that are getting the access now don't lose it, and trying to show the private sector the benefits of them continuing to provide low-income access, low-income subsidies as part of their business model. And if they don't, then there is always municipal broadband under consideration. There is a lot of access. We talk about 5G. The private sector is using the City government's utility poles and our streets, so there is some leverage that we have and try to get. Reasonable access to these programs that benefit low-income families in the City.

**Rene Peters:** That's a great follow-up. Thank you, Alex. We have another board member who entered the chat with a question. Katie, are you able to read it?

**Katie Crimmins:**   I can read it.  I'm Katie Crimmins, and I'm a member through the Get Engaged program through the YMCA. And I had a question about budgeting and raising awareness. I see a problem identified in the previous study about technology access. A significant portion of residents are unaware of certain things that already exist. Given that there's no dedicated marketing team that sits inside Seattle IT -- someone correct me if that's wrong -- how would this problem be solved, and by whom? Are they budgeting for that?

**Councilmember Alex Pedersen:**  Adoption is actually a big -- we actually added a lot of language to  our resolution about adoption. It wasn't just about access, but it was about adoption. We added language to our resolution about that. So, that is part of it. And in terms of making people aware of programs that already exist, yes, that is one of the ways we will make it universal, by letting people know what already exists.

**Katie Crimmins:**   And does that ownership sit within IT, or does that sit within Council, or is that shared between departments?

**Councilmember Alex Pedersen:**   One of the things we ask for in this resolution is for the Department of Information Technology to present to City Council in September, right before we start our fall budget process, to let us know what is already being done, and where the gaps are, and then we go into our budget process. So, there might be something that we can do as part of the fall budget process to increase marketing and awareness of what already exists. But it would rest with the Department of Information Technology, here within the City government.

**Katie Crimmins:**   Got it. Thank you.

**Rene Peters:**   Awesome question, Katie. Thank you for that. Looks like we probably have time for one more question. So, Alex, another question that came from the board is super interesting to me. I'll be curious to see the response. Are there any technical and legislative advantages to the idea of classifying the internet as a first class utility, alongside water and electricity? Does this unlock additional funding, or does it just cause more challenges?

**Councilmember Alex Pedersen:**   Sure. I don't know if we're ready to go there just yet. I would like to see what we come up with in our action plan first. By leveraging, maximizing, optimizing all of these partnerships that we have, the sources of funding that we have, the fact that we're a tech City, if we can't get to universal access using these partnerships and working with the private sector, then I think that the idea of saying that this is a utility, and to just try to move toward municipal broadband, that's a real path that I'm open to. I don't think that we should be doing it right now, just because of the cost. We have a budget deficit, and it would be difficult to come up with the money locally. We want to be ready, though, for funding, so as federal funding becomes available, we want to be ready for it. I don't think we need to classify as a utility to do that, but part of this resolution is to be open to what is going to get us universal access the fastest way.

**Rene Peters:**   Excellent. Thanks for that perspective. We realize that you have a hard stop at 6:45. We appreciate your time. I wanted to close out very quickly. I see that members of the public have put in a number of really cool and interesting questions into this side chat. While we did have to limit questions to the board members for time considerations during this meeting, we would definitely encourage anybody to provide a public comment to the City Council meeting on the 20th. That's when this resolution will go in front of the community to be discussed. And I am going to post a link in the chat currently. Two hours before the meeting fill out the form to reserve a spot.

**Councilmember Alex Pedersen:**   If you have questions, you can just email them to me, and then Cara Vallier, of my staff, can try to get answers back to you. The Council meeting is rally just to get the resolution out the door. There won't be a Q&A period. So, if you have a question and want it answered, it's best to send them to my office, and then we can either talk to Seattle IT, or we can talk to other stakeholders and get answers back to you. My email address is alex.pedersen@seattle.gov. Cara put hers out there, as well (cara.vallier@seattle.gov). So, it's best to email us and we'll get back to you.

**Rene Peters:**   That's even better. And, Cara, I'm so sorry for butchering your last name. Alex, thank you so much for making yourself open to come and talk to us. Torgie and I and the rest of the board definitely appreciate you making yourself so available to be a conduit for us, and to give us access to more questions, and to get great perspective on really important work like this resolution.

**Councilmember Alex Pedersen:**   Thank you. And thanks, everybody, for being on the call. And please consider this an ongoing conversation so that we are leveraging your expertise. Please reach out to Cara in my office, and we are going to be relying on your expertise when we get to the action plan stage of this. Right now, we just want to get the other members of the City Council excited about even this concept so that we can get moving on it, and get into the details with you. So, thank you everybody for letting me speak tonight. I appreciate it.

**Rene Peters:**   Awesome. So, I think that it's fair to say that that was a very exciting start to the meeting. I'm glad that we were able to get that session in. And we're very appreciative, again, for Alex's time. I'll go right back to the top of the agenda and we'll try introductions again with less pressure on everybody. Again, I'll do the presenters and board members first, and then I'll go to the attending guests, and then I will go to the phone guests, mentioning the last four digits of the phone number. Again, we're just aiming for a very quick name and organization, if you are representing one.

**MORE INTRODUCTIONS**

**Rene Peters:**   Next we have, Dr. Tyrone Grandison. I wanted to just stop here for a second to welcome and congratulate Tyrone. He was officially green lit by the City Council. He is now, as of this meeting, an official board member. That will bring us to nine out of ten official spots filled. And the last spot belongs to the Mayoral seat, so there's still one more. But I just wanted to give you an opportunity to introduce yourself a little more fully. And again, welcome, and congratulations, Tyrone.

**Tyrone Grandison:**   Oh, thank you so much. I've been involved with CTAB for years. My background is in technology (unintelligible).

**Rene Peters:**   Excellent. I think that we are done with introductions. Everybody go to the chat quickly. I think Cass is trying to correct some spelling, so if you see that she is asking about your name, just kindly correct the spelling and make sure that's right for the minutes. All right. Next thing on the agenda, we usually do the approval of the minutes and the agenda. So, I'm calling on the board members to first move to approve the minutes from our last meeting, which is May. can I get a motion and a second?

**Torgie Madison:**  This is Torgie, and I move to approve the last meeting's minutes, May,

**John Krull:**  John, here. I second.

**Rene Peters:**   Thank you. We have a motion and a second, so all in favor, say 'Aye.'

**Camille Malonzo:**   I'm going to have to abstain, as I wasn't here.

**Rene Peters:** Very honorable, Camille. Are there any nays or other abstentions?

**Katie Crimmins:**  Rene, this is Katie. I'm also abstaining. I wasn't there.

**Rene Peters:**    Okay, great. I think this should pass. We have a quorum? Correct me if I'm wrong.

**Torgie Madison:**   We are at a 40 percent quorum, so four or more.

**Rene Peters:**   Awesome. All right, so that will pass. Next, can we get a motion for the agenda for this meeting, which we are already deep into?

**Steven Maheshwary:**   This is Steven. I'll move to approve the agenda.

**Torgie Madison:** I'm Torgie. I'll second that.

**Rene Peters:**   All right. We have a motion and a second. Everyone in favor, please say, "Aye."  Abstentions? we are over four, so it looks like this motion will pass. And we are actually perfectly on time. At this point, we are roughly halfway through our agenda. We will do a five minute break. Please stretch your legs, grab a drink, and I'll see you back here at 7:07.

**BREAK**

**Rene Peters:**   All right, John, are you standing by?  Awesome. Okay, I hope that everybody is back and comfortable. We have great committee updates for you guys.  Next, you will hear from our Digital Equity, Privacy, and Smart Cities subcommittees.  We're leading off with a great presentation by John Krull, and I will let him take it from here.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**DIGITAL EQUITY COMMITTEE**

**John Krull:**   Thanks, Rene. I'm presenting from the Digital Equity and Inclusion Committee.  I want to give a shout out to our committee members, Harte Daniels, Dorene Cornwell, Michael Weinstein, and from the City of Seattle IT, David Keyes, Vicky Yuki, Delia Burke, Alice Lawson, and we've had a few other members attend meetings here and there. This year, our focus has been on digital equity and inclusion for seniors. We started this project in the fall, and as fate would have it, the pandemic hit, and digital inclusion for everybody is really important. We're focusing, particularly, here on seniors.

What we try to do is -- Councilmember Pedersen talked about the City of Seattle Technology Access and Adoption Study, from 2018; our committee helped advise on that, and also did the first official review of that for recommendations for next steps. So, what we're trying to do is build on that work, which did recognize the need for digital equity and inclusion across all levels. So, I'm going to go over some of the survey questions. So, obviously, in the community, only four percent really think that digital access is not important. So, really, even before the pandemic, there was a huge need for access.

Again, looking at older adults, we want to build on this work. There is definitely a need for older adults. And, of course, there is a cross-section that is going to be compounded -- when you have older adults that may have a disability, or may speak a language other than English. We also wanted to recognize that there is a need here for older adults, showing that they do not have the help that they need with online access. And then, finally, here are groups more likely than others to report barriers to using the internet access. So, the need is definitely there. Again, seniors may both lack internet devices or internet, or both, and they lack the skills. And they might not have the support.

Because of all that, we wanted to build on it. We set our project goals. These have been adapted as we've moved forward as we've gotten more information. But, basically, we wanted to start with determining how seniors get health and wellness information, discover what extend tele-medicine is used. We want to find out what is, and work forward in figuring out what the service providers are providing. And then we actually do want to pilot a plan, so we've got this information; we want to find out what's available out there for tele-medicine; and then how can we help improve that. And then, ultimately, our goal is to come back to this board with our findings, and hopefully get the full board's support, and then ultimately, make recommendations to the City.

The cool thing is, as we've learned more information, we've built our partners. So, of course, we started with committee project members. Seattle IT, as I mentioned before, has been an active member, which has been great. Seattle Housing Authority, we've done a survey with them, and they've gotten actively involved. Some partners haven't been able to help out. We've tried to work with SHAG, but they  have just been too busy with the immediate needs, to participate. We've gotten the Seattle Aging and Disability Services, and then the resident action council. We actually are having those folks help be our fiscal agent for a grant that we applied for, that I'll talk about in a few minutes.

What have we done so far? As I mentioned, we have expanded the participants; we've narrowed the scope; we've actually identified a (senior community apartment building) as a willing participant to be our pilot, working with Neighborcare Health. And, as I mentioned, we got RAC to join in. And we've decided to apply to King County for funding. So, that's kind of where we are.

What have we accomplished so far? Really quickly, we've done a survey with SHA residents. That backed up what the City's larger survey did. We've gotten a small sampling of devices; we've engaged SHA; we've met with t he Tele-Health Network, which we think might be a good partner. We've talked with the E-Stewards and Friendly Earth to see how perhaps our solution might involve refurbished equipment.

We've broken the project down to four phases now. We started with three. Again, this is an evolving project. So we did the survey. Torgie made this available to everybody, so if you want to dig deeper into any of this -- because I'm trying to stay within ten or fifteen minutes. For instance, you can look at our link for the survey earlier. You can look at the link for the access and adoption study. Really, what we found was, in our survey, and then looking at SHA's recent survey that they did, it just reinforced that seniors do indeed have barriers to tele-health. And Covid-19 has just really exacerbated the problem.  So, phase one is complete. Now, phase two -- this is super exciting, and I won't get into the details here, but this just came up as we were doing our research -- there is some funding available through King County. As I mentioned, we want to do a pilot. So for a pilot at a (senior community apartment building), we might be able to get funding. And we're still waiting to hear on phase two. But that's super exciting, and the team really came together to get this out by the deadline.

Phase three is a work in progress. Again, team members have been talking to different providers and finding out what their tele-health offerings are, what they offer to seniors, etc. We're just doing some initial due diligence for that.

And then we have phase four, which again, once we have the (senior community apartment building) onboard, and once we have the partners onboard, we're going to be working on a pilot.

To do:  We're still figuring out whether we can get a better survey to the providers; getting Neighborcare onboard, engaging more providers; working with King County. So, there's still a bunch to do.

With that, I'm going to invite my different committee members, if they want to jump in. And we'll also take questions. So, first let's start with any committee members. I know Dorene Cornwell had a few things. And maybe Harte Daniels. Just to make sure that everybody know what we're up to, because we definitely want to come back to the full board.

**Dorene Cornwell:**   This is Dorene.  I realize that there is a confidentiality issue about naming a specific SHA community, so I think I'll talk to Cass Magnuski about how to deal with that in the recording of the minutes. The recording will be the recording, but the minutes might need to be tweaked.

What I want to talk about is a couple of things. I have been involved in writing TMF grants for a bunch of different projects with Seattle Housing and the City. This opportunity that came along from the County is in connection with things to do with Covid. The application has to do with the Citizens' Pandemic Advisory Group. I connected with it in a couple of different ways, because it deals with people with disabilities. They have a couple of funding cycles. I think this is the second one. In the application process, they don't want more than two pages per application, so that made it really easy to just slap in a couple of things. Like, if we actually get the money, we're going to have to some serious (unintelligible) ...understanding., and probably some other things we'll swat around. But it also made us think through different reasons, you know, what needs to happen for tele-health to work. One of the issues is parity of reimbursement to tele-health. Right now, tele-health is reimbursed at the same rate as in-person visits. There's a question mark about that. At some point, that's going to need to be formalized and made more permanent. We started out with Seattle Housing Authority residents. the biggest players are going to be Medicare and Medicaid. We already know that the providers deal with Medicare and Medicaid, so that simplifies some things for us. Already, the piece is in place: insurance coverage. I think, from the standpoint of digital inclusion projects in Seattle Housing Authority buildings right now I think there have been some computer labs in different communities, but I think with the working in close space thing, there's going to be more shift to making sure that individual households have devices. That's probably it. I'm happy to answer questions. Trying to define what to target in different housing communities is still a big question mark. I hope out of this conversation that a bigger project emerges, but writing the two-page application was really valuable, even though there's only so much you can say in two pages.

**John Krull:**   Thanks, Dorene.  Harte, do you have any additions before we take questions?

**Harte Daniels:**   Yes. I'll try to run through them very quickly. We have tried to have certain guiding principles, such that it includes involving the community, designing with them as opposed to for them. We're very grateful in that respect that we have the years of experience that Vicky Yuki and the other people who are City employees bring, but also trying to produce from and with the actual residents. That's why the rack that John mentioned is the residents' advisory council over Seattle Housing Authority. So, that's one thing.

As John mentioned, the overlap on the groups that lack access, tele-health for seniors as well as those with disabilities. I gave one example of vision impairment and quotes from the CDC. The other is, as we began talking -- and Dorene mentioned this but it needs clarification -- everybody who is our partner don't really have the number of hours from their personnel or any monies because of Covid, how hard it has hit both the budget and it overwhelmed the daily workload of personnel in each of these groups, which is why we went to look for other funding that presented itself. Everybody wants to use a known model which includes a singular private space with shared devices and that's not the new normal with Covid. It's quite different, presents problems, and we will have to find solutions for that in our recommendations. Some of the providers are not interested in doing whiz bang technology, tele-health, or expanding their tele-health. You have to remember that tele-health is an umbrella term; tele-medicine is a smaller subset of that. Tele-health does not necessarily mean what everybody with high bandwidth and smart phones can do in connecting to their doctors, which is all that you hear about on the news. Tele-health includes something they call POTS, Plain Old Telephone Service. A collection of safety net clinics that were started in the Civil Rights Movement. They're completely aligned with the objectors. The Councilmember who just spoke, Mr. Pedersen as well as CTAB in general. However, they're not interested in expanding, even though there were dollars offered by the FCC towards tele-health. And the reason was, as Dorene mentioned, they have some trepidation that CMS, which is Medicaid services will not carry through with their promises of reimbursement to Medicare/Medicaid. (unintelligible)...and private sector, although the majority of people in SHA would not necessarily have (unintelligible), both of those have to reimburse tele-medicine the same as an in-person visit. So, I'm just trying to clarify that, and if you want the details on any of those, I can give them to you.

**John Krull:**   Okay, I want to open it up to -- oh! I live in Georgetown; I'll pause as the plane flies by -- I want to open it up to any questions and myself and any committee members will do our best to answer. Do you have any questions about the initiative or our partners or next steps? Board members? Remember, we are going to be coming back with a full recommendation. I want everybody to understand what we're doing.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Hi, this is Camille. I don't have any questions right now, but I just want to say that this is really great work, really important work. Thank you. I am mindful of just how much care, thought, and research went into this.

**John Krull:**   Thank you, Camille. The committee really felt like maybe if we were directly asked by the Mayor or City Council, we did want to be able to do some research to be able to find them a recommendation. And taking that access and adoption study to the next level. Even though we're just focusing on one of the areas. Any other comments or questions? Well, with that, if there are no more comments or questions from community members, thank you for your time. We hope to again come back to the committee I would imagine some time in the fall. We will update you sooner if we do get that grant. But, we'll do a big presentation like this probably a couple of meetings down the road.

**Rene Peters:**  Thanks, John. And to echo Camille Malonzo, it's very clear just the care and detail that went into this. It's great to hear about partnerships, the goals that you set, and accomplishments so far. So, we're all excited to see what lies ahead. Great committee update. So, next, we'll move on to the Smart Cities Committee and Tyler for their update.

**SMART CITIES COMMITTEE**

**Tyler Woebkenberg:**   Good evening, all. I'll be brief, but for this particular month and since we all last spoke, we were able to speak to a couple of our contacts, folks from Seattle IT, around some questions about the 5G working document. We've had a few community members sign on more formally through Seamus and Alex. So, we're pushing that work forward, as well as pursuing some other options. So, while we're waiting for some responses about the 5G work specifically, and the needs of the City and Seattle IT itself. That's the main update for this month. We will meet again same as the other committees in two weeks on Tuesday.

**Rene Peters:**  Thanks, Tyler. We look forward to getting updates on that work, too. Now we will move on to the Privacy Committee. Camille?

**PRIVACY COMMITTEE**

**Camille Malonzo:**   Hi, everybody. (unintelligible)

**Torgie Madison:**   Camille, this is Torgie. I wanted to welcome you back to having regular meetings. And I believe that you were interested in finding a co-chair for the committee.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Yes. It would enrich our discussions to have a co-chair. So, if you are interested...(unintelligible).

**Rene Peters:**  Thanks, Camille. I think it's hard for people to hear you, so as much detail as you could provide in the chat, that would be helpful. Thanks again for the update. So, with the committee updates rounded out, we will move on to the space in the agenda that we set aside for our guests to comment, public comment. So, if anybody has any announcements, updates, questions, the floor is yours.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Harte Daniels:**   I would recommend that the board committees look at OTI, Open Technologies Institute. I'm familiar with them and have worked with them for a number of years. Bur you will find that they've already written many policy papers on the subject matters that you are addressing and writing your own papers on. You might want to review theirs, as well. Thank you.

Also, data can be used for a number of different things, but still is available at the Worldwide Human Geography database. I have mentioned them before, and you can contact me if you want to find out about them and the data sets available.

**Rene Peters:**  Thanks, Harte. Any other updates, announcements, questions?

**Torgie Madison:**  This is Torgie again. I just wanted to remind everyone that the public comment period for the City Council meeting on the 20th is a great way to speak. If you have any strong opinions about the Internet for All Resolution, you do have to fill out a Google form within two hours of the start of the meeting. I believe that window opens at noon on the 20th. For the board members here, if you'd like to give a public comment, you just have to be careful that you are not representing the board or the board's opinion. But I also recommend that you give public comment, if you can. I know that Internet for All is a resolution that fits unusually perfectly with the interests of the board. So it would be good to get some representation from CTAB and from our community.

**David Keyes:**   Hey, everybody, this is David. I just wanted to pass along the fact the DemocracyLab and folks are doing a summer Create-a-thon. You can contribute your talents to a good project. So, that's happening this Saturday. And you can either look for DemocracyLab online, or Create-a-thon. I'll post it in the chat, also, or ping you, if you want me to send it to you.

**Rene Peters:**  Thanks, David. Okay, yes, and Camille, for anyone who is interested in the Privacy Committee, Camille just added more detail in the chat. Esther, I see you have a question.

**Esther Jang:**  Hi, can you hear me?

**Rene Peters:**  Yes, we can.

**Esther Jang:**  Cool. As I said before, I am with a small, nonprofit organization that is working on essentially internet access to try to improve digital equity in some of the low income areas of Seattle. I was wondering about the status of the Technology Matching Fund grants, which were submitted earlier this year. I think everything is, understandably super-delayed because of Covid, but I was wondering whether that was still happening. Thanks.

**Rene Peters:**  Thanks for the question, Esther. to the best of my knowledge -- and if Delia is still on the call, feel free to back me up on this -- but we announced the recipients of the grants in mid-June. That list is out. We can get that list to you. I believe that all of the groups that made submissions should have been followed up with, regardless of the status of their submission. So, if anybody else on the board has ... Oh! Tracye Cantrell has said that the grants are still moving forward. I think that we should be able to route information in either case. Again, if anybody has more current information on the next round of grants, feel free to address that.

**David Keyes:**   This is David. If Delia is not online, I can just post the link. It's true that the 2020 grants were awarded. So, unless something changes, likely the next round wouldn't be until after the end of the year, in 2021. go to the web site for the Tech Matching Fund, and click on where it says, "Subscribe Now," to get notices. If you put in your information there, then you'll be sure to get a notice when the grants open up again. Depending on the project, sometimes a Neighborhood Matching Grant may be a potential funding source for a project.

**Rene Peters:**  Thanks, David. Esther, Delia just replied in the chat with contact information, so if you have any further questions, just  reach out to her.

**Esther Jang:** Thanks so much.

**Rene Peters:** Awesome. Any other questions, comments, announcements? Going once, going twice. Great. So, we'll move into a quick recap of what we've covered today. We started off with a great presentation from Councilmember Pedersen about his Internet for All resolution. Again, as Torgie has mentioned, there is a great resource for submitting public comments on the 20th. We will circulate the link for that. Pretty sure I've already posted it in the chat. It should be in the minutes, as well. (<https://www.seattle.gov/cityclerk/agendas-and-legislative-resources/city-council-agendas/public-comment-guide>)  Councilmember Pedersen, as well as his legislative assistant, Cara Valier, have also offered their contact information, so you can get any questions answered beforehand, by reaching out to their email addresses. But again, that resolution will go before City Council  on the 20th. We're looking forward to more updates and of course, partnership with CTAB, along with all of that work. Next, we had a really great update from John Krull and other members of the Digital Equity Committee around senior health care. And as I mentioned before, there was a ton of great detail and we got some great perspective from John, Harte, Dorene and others around the partnerships and accomplishments that they've made so far, and the phases that are coming next. We are excited to hear more about that work. We finally heard form Smart Cities and the Privacy Committee as their respective work moves forward. Again, please reach out to Camille if you're interested in committee leadership on the Privacy Committee and please reference this chat or the minutes from this meeting for that.

So, we will now move on to the official adjournment of the meeting. We definitely appreciate your time. We are very excited to meet with all of you and to hear different perspectives, ideas, and unless Torgie has anything to say....

**Torgie Madison:**   You did great! Thank you for hosting.

**Rene Peters:** No problem. Thanks for giving me the platform. I very much appreciate it. So, good night, everybody. Thanks for your time again; and be safe until next month.

**ADJOURNMENT**