

**Syracuse MetroNet
Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, April 21, 2017
8 AM, Syracuse Technology Garden
235 Harrison Street**

MetroNet Board Members, Visitors and Staff Attendance:

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

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

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

A - Indicates Board member that was absent

E - Indicates Board member that was excused

Meeting Notes:

1.) Welcome and Introductions

Brian Barboline called the meeting to order at 8:10 AM.

2.) Motions

Ron Walter reviewed the MetroNet Revenue Less Expenses report as of March 31, 2017 and reported revenue for the month of \$5,764 which exceeded expenses by \$2,133. For the first three months of the year, revenue exceeded expenses by \$7,812. Part of that was due to the fact that \$10,000 in past due Baseline Fees were received in February and are included in this year's revenue.

Cash on hand at the end of the month was \$116,280. Accounts Receivable are at the lowest level in over two years. The only outstanding amount due was \$2,694 from the Marriott Syracuse Downtown. The Hotel has been running two months behind in their payments since last year.

Brian Barboline stated that since we do not have a quorum for the meeting, we will delay motions on both the minutes and the financial reports until the next Board meeting.

3.) MetroNet Project Development

Wireless Connectivity for Non-Profits – Ron Walter reported that the First English Lutheran Church, the location of our Refugee Computer Lab, has closed. However, the building is still open on weekends and we had been able to continue running a homework assistance class which uses the computer lab on Saturday mornings. He stated that he had been working with a small group of people to try to figure out what we could do with the computer lab as well as with the 15 other community groups who were using the building on a regular basis. The church congregation has been working with St. Joseph's Hospital to see if they would be willing to take over the building. However, since the last Board meeting, Gail Riina, Lutheran Chaplain who has been coordinating the Refugee Computer Lab

activities, has been asked to remove the computer lab equipment from the building Ms. Riina has since moved all the equipment over to St. Stephen Lutheran Church on Dewitt Street in Syracuse and plans to continue to offer programs at that location. Some of the refugee organizations who had used the First English Lutheran Church are moving over to St. Stephen. However, since there is no Syracuse MetroNet site nearby, we will not be able to continue to offer free Internet service to the computer lab. Mr. Walter stated that he will be going up into the attic of the First English Lutheran Church this weekend to remove MetroNet's wireless antenna.

Mr. Walter stated that while the new location for the computer lab is not ideal for serving the target population, it was the only place available on short notice after we were notified that the equipment had to be removed from First English. Nader Maroun asked Mr. Walter to send him Gail Riina's phone number so that he could speak with her.

Mr. Walter stated that the other item that we had discussed at the last Board meeting concerned the Syracuse City School District's reservations about allowing Syracuse MetroNet to use the District's backbone to provide Internet service to the Somali Bantu Community Center for fear that this might jeopardize their E-Rate funding. He had contacted the Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) who administers the E-Rate funding and provided a detailed description of what we were planning to do. After reviewing the proposal, the USAC representatives stated that such a use would be permissible. Mr. Walter reported this to Andrew Cramer who in turn reported this to other school officials. They were all quite surprised since this was not what the District had heard from their consultant or in their conversations with USAC. He pointed out that what MetroNet is proposing to do was very specific and wouldn't cost the School District anything since MetroNet would be paying all the expenses. Andrew Cramer indicated that the District would take this under advisement and get back to us. However, Mr. Walter stated that he has not heard anything further back from the District as yet. Nader Maroun agreed to follow up with Tim Moon and copy the Superintendent.

Free Wi-Fi Initiative – Kevin Sexton reported that the County has everything around the Civic Center working so that access to the Free MetroNet Wi-Fi is available and people are using it. However, it is not quite strong enough at the moment to get to Columbus Circle but they are looking at options to enable the service to reach that location. Ron Walter reported on behalf of Dave Prowak that he has made significant progress on the City's access points and has received approval on the splash page. The City should have some AP's launched in a few weeks. Mr. Prowak is also working with NYSERNet to install an access point connected to the MetroNet network to provide connectivity to Clinton Square from the Atrium Building. Le Moyne College has been providing coverage of Hanover Square for some time. Mr. Walter further stated that we need to work on expanding the downtown coverage by enlisting other organizations in the area who would be willing to install access points connected to the free Wi-Fi network. Once we have reached a larger mass, he will work on getting some publicity for the initiative.

Nader Maroun asked Mr. Walter to set up a meeting with Dave Prowak regarding the City's participation in the MetroNet Free Wi-Fi initiative for Monday morning at City Hall.

Tech Alley Initiative – Ron Walter reported that he will be contacting two additional building owners to enlist the participation of their buildings in this project. Our objective is to get the owners of seven to ten buildings along South Warren and South Salina Streets to work with us. He and Dave Prowak met recently with VIP Structures, the owners of the Pike Block and Wilson and Bond Buildings along South Salina Street, and they expressed interest in being part of this project. Vince Nicotra of QPK Design is also very interested.

Mr. Walter also reported that he and Dave Prowak met with Eastcom Utility Contractors to get some idea of what building the fiber optic backbone ring along South Salina and South Warren Streets would cost. Eastcom quoted a cost of \$58,000 to build and test a 144 strand loop utilizing existing underground City of Syracuse infrastructure. This does not include the cost of connections to the buildings or equipment to operate the network. An important next step is to work with the building owners to determine what kind of connectivity now exists in their buildings, if any, and what it would cost to connect each of these buildings. Additionally, we need to determine the type of equipment needed to run the network and the cost of such equipment. Brian Barboline asked if it's worth contacting other fiber construction organizations to validate the Eastcom bid. Ron Walter replied that we would definitely bid out this part of the project when the time comes. We asked Eastcom to give us a general idea of what such installation might cost since we had nothing to base any cost estimates on. Kevin Sexton suggested that we contact New Vision about the Tech Alley project. Mr. Walter stated that he had met with them earlier this year and

would be happy to meet with them again once we have a better idea of what buildings will be included in our initiative.

Mr. Maroun asked who else was scheduled to be contacted about this project. Mr. Walter responded that Bob Doucette and the individuals renovating the old Addis building were on his list of contacts. Additionally we need to contact Joe Hucko whose Washington Street Partners own Merchants Commons along South Warren Street and who had originally expressed interest in the project. Mr. Maroun asked Mr. Walter to put together a letter to these individuals that he would be willing to sign.

4.) MetroNet Vision Development

Ron Walter stated that we had planned once again to devote a a portion of this meeting to following up on what Sam Scozzafava talked about at MetroNet's January Board meeting, the development of a formal strategic plan for the organization. He had suggested that re-examine our mission and vision. What is our vision, what do we see for this organization down the road? Then we should develop some strategies to formalize some of the things that we have been working on. Mr. Scozzafava indicated that he would get back to us with a process and an outline. Unfortunately, Mr. Scozzafava was unable to attend this morning's meeting so we will have to postpone that discussion until a future meeting.

5.) Next Meeting Dates

The next MetroNet Executive/Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 19, 2017 at 8:00AM.

The next MetroNet Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 16, 2017 at 8:00AM.

6.) Motion to Adjourn

Brian Barboline asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Nader made a motion to adjourn the meeting.