

BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL  
July 27, 2020  
UNAPPROVED Minutes  
3:00 PM  
Digital Meeting via Google Meets

Members Present

Senator Jennifer Boysko, Chair  
Delegate Roslyn C. Tyler, Vice Chair  
James Carr  
Michael Culp  
Senator Ghazala Hashmi  
Kristie Helmick Proctor  
Delegate Chris Hurst  
Mike Keyser  
Delegate Paul E. Krizek  
Ray LaMura  
Delegate James A. Leftwich, Jr.  
Senator Lynwood W. Lewis, Jr.  
The Honorable Bettina K. Ring  
Evan Feinman representing The Honorable Brian Ball

Members Absent

Rosemary Wilson

Call to Order

Dr. Tamarah Holmes, Director of the Office of Broadband at the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Dr. Holmes announced that due to the Governor's Declared State of Emergency due to COVID-19, it is impracticable and unsafe for the Commission on Local Government to assemble in a single location, so the commission meeting will be held electronically, by video conference and telephone options, pursuant to 2020 Amendments to the 2020 Appropriation Act. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the Broadband Advisory Council and the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities. The public is welcome to use the link and phone number options made available by staff to attend the meeting electronically. DHCD will make available a recording or transcript of the meeting on its website in accordance with the timeframes established in Sections 2.2-3707 and 2.2-3701.1 of the Code of Virginia.

Roll Call	Dr. Holmes, Director of the Office of Broadband for the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), called the roll and stated that a quorum was present.
Welcome and Introduction	Mr. Erik Johnston, Director of DHCD welcomed the Council and members of the public to the Virginia Broadband Advisory Council meeting, introduced DHCD staff and provided an overview of DHCD's new role in staffing the council in partnership with the Division of Legislative Services.
Election of Chair and Vice Chair	<p>Mr. Johnston opened the floor for nominations for Chair to the Council.</p> <p>A motion was made by Mr. Lamura to nominate Senator Jennifer Boysko as Chair. Senator Boysko accepted the nomination.</p> <p>A motion was made by Delegate Krizek to nominate Delegate Roslyn C. Tyler as Chair. Delegate Tyler accepted the nomination.</p> <p>Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Johnston closed the floor to nominations. Senator Boysko was elected Chair (Votes for Boysko: Boysko, Carr, Culp, Hashmi, LaMura, Lewis; Votes for Tyler: Keyser, Krizek, Leftwich, Helmick Proctor, Tyler; Abstained: Feinman, Ring; No-Vote: Hurst).</p> <p>Chair Boysko opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair to the Council.</p> <p>A motion was made by Chair Boysko and properly seconded by Mr. LaMura to nominate Delegate Tyler as Vice Chair.</p> <p>Hearing no further discussion, Chair Boysko closed the floor to nominations. Delegate Tyler was elected Vice Chair (Votes for Tyler: Boysko, Carr, Culp, Feinman, Hashmi, Helmick Proctor, Hurst, Keyser, Krizek, LaMura, Leftwich, Lewis, Ring, Tyler; Abstained: None; No-Vote: None).</p>
Adoption of Robert's Rules	On recommendation by staff, Chair Boysko entertained a motion to adopt Robert's Rules as the primary procedure of the Council. A motion was made and properly seconded to adopt Robert's Rules. The motion passed (Yea: Ball, Boysko, Carr, Culp, Hashmi, Helmick Proctor, Hurst Keyser, Krizek, LaMura, Leftwich, Lewis, Ring, Tyler; Nay: None; No-Vote: None).

Presentation on the Broadband Advisory Council	<p>Dr. Holmes gave a brief presentation highlighting the powers and duties granted to the Broadband Advisory Council.</p> <p>Mr. Jeffrey Sharp, Senior Attorney at the Division of Legislative Services, provided the Council with a brief overview of the role of Legislative Services as relates to the Broadband Advisory Council as dictated by the enabling legislation.</p>
Commonwealth Connect Plan	<p>Mr. Evan Feinman, Chief Broadband Advisor to the Governor, provided for the Council a brief overview of the Commonwealth Connect branding, which is an interagency umbrella that covers all initiatives undertaken by the State to expand broadband coverage across the Commonwealth. Mr. Feinman gave an overview of the achievements, goals, and challenges facing the Commonwealth’s goal of providing universal affordable broadband access statewide.</p>
Office of Broadband and VATI	<p>Dr. Holmes provided for the Council an overview of the Office of Broadband at DHCD, including the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) program, which is the primary grant program utilized to expand broadband access to unserved and underserved communities across the Commonwealth.</p>
Schedule of Regular Meetings	<p>Dr. Holmes indicated to the Council that staff recommends scheduling a meeting for the Council in both November and May to review progress of expanding broadband access as relates to the VATI program.</p> <p>Delegate Krizek suggested that the Council may need to meet prior to the Special Session of the General Assembly in August. After discussion, the Council deferred making a decision on the suggestion until a later date.</p>
Public Comment Period	<p>No comments were made by the public; the public comment period was then closed.</p>
Adjournment	<p>Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.</p>