

Broadband Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes 3/16/23

Megan DelGaudio  
Mary Ellen Sheffield  
Antoine Banks – Comcast  
Dan Cohen – Franchise Attorney  
Andrew Costello  
Brian Riley  
Alison Davis  
Joe Brown  
Ed Cummins  
Todd Mohn

Motion to start the meeting made by Joe Brown at 4:06 pm. Seconded by Ed Cummins.

Minutes from 2/16/23. Motion to approve by Andrew Costello Seconded by Alison Davis.

Comcast Presentation to let the council no its plans for inspection in QAC.

Antione Banks – Sharing Screen – what they do and the technology that they offer. \$732 million invested in Maryland since 2021. They are in 39 states and the District of Columbia. Peak traffic growth continued to climb above the record highs sent in the Pandemic. Continuous upgrades kept customers from experiencing lag time. Access to 1.2 GB of speed. On the road to 10G. internet essentials created in 2011 provides internet to any person who receives any type of Federal Assistance. 100 mg provided. Lift Zones to allow for access to free, high-capacity Wi-Fi. Comcast RISE Investment Fund grants to small women and minority owned businesses for technology revamping. Smart City Innovation Zone uses connected technology and data to reduce operating costs, improve quality of life for citizens, and enhance safety and security with an eye towards privacy.

Todd: We are working with Comcast now for a new Franchise agreements. If they want to work with the Towns those would be separate agreements. They are already in the town of Queen Anne. Have also been talking about Comcast preparing to install fiber in the Grasonville and Kent Island area in as early as May. Will see some Comcast construction activity this Summer.

Antione: They are hoping to begin building as soon as they have a franchise agreement. Will start with Kent Island. Same level of service as DC, Annapolis and other parts of the country. Will start with 1.2GB of speed.

Alison: is the Franchise Agreement exclusive of any plans to build? Or are they separate?

Todd: The intention is at their risk they want to begin installing fiber as they work through the franchise agreement. The franchise agreement must be compatible and consistent to the one the County has with

Breezeline. Service would be available sometime in 2024.

Alison: Kent Island and Kent Narrows are the densely populated. Do you have information about areas of the County that are not served?

Antoine: No information on exact phases and locations. Will work with the County and the State.

Alison: We've been waiting for Comcast so come on in!

Brian Riley: Tiers of the Broadband speeds is there a proposed percentage range of degradation that is acceptable to Comcast.

Antoine: If they say 600 for a speed; you're going to get probably a little more. He knows that once it gets to a certain lower number the technology will look for issues and correct them. They install a mesh system within the house. They are bringing Internet, TV, and phone to the County. TV is every channel that is in their network and home security service. Essentially everything that Annapolis has QAC will have. Should be able to provide service Q1 2024.

#### Other business:

Joyce Jones will no longer be a member of the Council; however, she found a replacement: Jerrod Rickard – Senior Cryptologic Radio Frequency (RF) Systems Engineer (SE) | Project Manager with over 20 years of hands-on Active-Duty U. S. Navy. Only person so far that has put their name in the hat.

Recommendation for Jerrod to join the Council

Keep Long Driveway as simple as possible and let technology work be the latest available

\$14,000 – Not in Charles County – have to find out where they got that.

Take out reimbursement piece out. Would allow us less hassle when trying to administrate the program. Still have not heard about the grants. Can be because of the new administration.

Still working on getting addresses. Files from ISPs are not spatially accurate. Working on getting the address and a count of homes that need the program. Would like to have the program ready to go by 1<sup>st</sup> QACC meeting in April so everything will be ready when the State money is ready.

Todd: Any idea of the cost? Megan: State might give as much as \$1million. Possibly ask for ARPA money. Doesn't think there is a match agreement with the State. Could be Q1 or Q2.

Todd: Should we show the Grant money in the FY24 budget and add the ARPA money in the budget as well. May want to put some funds in the FY25 budget also.

Ed Cummings moves to close the meeting at 4:56 pm. Joe Brown seconded.