

Committee on the Future
June 22, 2020 - 5:30 p.m.
Microsoft Teams
Regular (Virtual) Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Carolyn Champion, Tyler Craddock, Robert Innes, Frank Petroski, Phil Plymale, Janet Stephens

Members Not Present:

Staff: Kimberly Conley

Welcome and Approval of Agenda:

The chair opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. He welcomed everyone back after being away for three months due to COVID-19.

The agenda was approved on a motion by Carolyn Champion and seconded by Tyler Craddock.

Approval of Minutes:

N/A

Report Topic Discussion:

The chair shared the purpose of the meeting will be to discuss moving forward since the pause from COVID-19. He mentioned that boards and commissions are meeting again in person and virtually using a variety of platforms. People have been sharing examples of how they have been functioning and moving forward with the new norm. The chair also mentioned with the current topic area there may be a number of new versions of what it means to have rapid disruptions and how technology supports the changes. In addition, the group will need to discuss any comments or potential changes to the report topic area.

Staff mentioned recent discussions about the use of technology platforms since COVID 19 and how it impacts the committee's topic area long term approach. As a restarting point, the committee will continue to focus on reviewing the vision, crafting the mission, presenting book reports previously identified, and discussing the topic as it stands today.

The vice chair shared that the resources compiled to date are related to government trends 2020. In the past three months, governments have escalated two years in using various forms of technology. Many resources will change due to the fast-moving technology target today. The government will be pivoting to post COVID world in the next few months. The resources are useful but now we need to evaluate our thinking based on the recent experience.

There was some discussion about researching new resources, cultural acceptances of new technology, regulations have changed expeditiously, and people have become more familiar with technology. Schools will see a larger impact than government. It was mentioned that schools, governments and organizations need to start thinking about what to do when the next pandemic hits the community.

In preparation for the next pandemic, documentation of lessons learned from this experience and determining what should be kept in place will assist in the next phase of planning. Discussions continued with some considerations to include in the report such as:

- Equity (i.e. students' internet, computers, hotspots)
- Leaving a segment of the community behind that do not have access to technology
- Parents working; children still have to be educated
- Online accessibility is a utility as much as electricity
- Support systems

The chair asked if the current topic area is still relevant or are there other topics that should be explored. The committee mentioned the following:

- Topic area is broad and will have to be separated into sections
- Keep the topic, report would be COVID 19 inspired
- Consider an interactive site
- Off set the inequities for a segment of the community to have access (i.e. facilitate with private sector)
- Students accessibility to technology
- Revisit emerging technology committee
- Dependency on technology, cyber security
- Drone model vs ground infrastructure, connected vehicle infrastructure, three dimensional (potential future speaker – Drone school in Richmond)
- Human services areas (i.e. social services, mental health, etc.) - potential impact on personal disruptors (potential future speaker – aging or long-term care)

A member shared he had communicated with a constituent within the Bermuda district that requested a potential topic be added to the list. The topic suggestion was an “Unmanned Traffic Management System” as a future infrastructure project for the county and or region.

The committee discussed and revised the draft vision below:

Chesterfield County government has a coordinated, proactive framework in place to monitor, plan for, and leverage technology when disruptions arise or when technology is the disruptor. The organization invests in an innovative culture and agile workforce and looks to disrupt itself with the goal of providing responsive and efficient services and to continue to be a competitive community of choice.

The committee mentioned this report is a hot topic around the nation, however, COTF report will be a long-term approach for Chesterfield's community.

Resource Review: N/A

Committee Business:

The committee briefly discussed the plan for the remainder of the year. At the next few meetings, present book reports, identify potential speakers to visit, and seek additional resources to review. The July meetings will be held virtual with more discussion on the plan for August/September.

County Information:

The county has not fully opened officially. Customer service centers/departments are open for business. The Planning Commission met last week in person and the Board of Supervisors will meet in person this month.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m. on a motion by Frank Petroski and Phil Plymale