VCN Board Meeting
Thursday, May 21, 2009
411 Dunsmuir St., Vancouver, BC

Board and staff in attendance: Jim Sayre, Travis Keyworth, Brendan Houle, Pedro Mora, Craig McLachlan, Michael Felczak, Kalia Turdova, Chris Chanhsamone, Sid Roberts.

Meeting started at 6:20 PM.

MOTION to approve minutes from April 16th, 2009 board meeting – m/s/c.

Kalia presented the staff report:
- Received Request for Proposal invitation from CAP for the continuation of CAP for next year.
- VCN staff and Web Team are closely cooperating to develop the community outreach component of VCN. This involves updating the VCN brochures and web site and developing VCN workshops for community groups. These workshops will include sessions on available VCN services for community groups, available VCN WebTeam services, and information on social networking tools for community groups.
- Working on a redesign of the VCN web site: update and refresh the design; make it easier to navigate; update content on pages, including help pages; add new pages (e.g. community events posting, job and volunteer application).

We could add a blog to the VCN website and use it initially as a second place to publish the email newsletter. We could then email the newsletter as well as post it on the blog and receive comments and thoughts from members via the blog. Based on past experiences with comments enabled on web sites, comments will need to be moderated to remove racist, hate, and other offensive spam.

Chris suggested that it terms of using email server space, it may be better if we email all users a link to the newsletter, which itself is posted on the VCN website. Or, email a text-only version of the newsletter with a link to the full version posted on the website.

Chris and Sid presented the technical report:
- Additional hard drives have been purchased for the email server.
- Some used LCD monitors have been purchased to replace the old ones in the public computer lab.
- A new PHP server is being configured.
- Several new volunteers are helping out with the request tracking system, installation server, and VOIP server.
- Staff and volunteers have setup a small mesh test network.
- One of the volunteers is a qualified senior network engineer, who is working on the test mesh network and evaluating the quality of the hardware and network performance.

Kalia presented the financial report.

Vancouver City Council considered "open access and open source" proposal for the city's IT infrastructure, which VCN supports.

Pedro put forward the following MOTION:
- To hire a consultant to investigate the possibilities of VCN providing high speed internet.
- Whereas: high speed internet is now a more practical and accepted system than the original dial-up internet service.
- Whereas: a non-profit organization competing with the for-profit corporations on the retailing of high speed internet service would discourage the exploitation to captive consumers.
- Whereas: supplying a service in high demand, at cost price, would potentially increase the membership and usefulness of VCN.
- Whereas: once VCN establishes the reputation and experience of a successful service, some progressive municipal governments might subscribe to our services and potentially contribute with financial resources.
- Therefore: I propose that VCN hires a qualified Internet-technical-consultant to advise us, the board of directors, of the technical possibilities, the hardware and software requirements, and the costs of equipment and bandwidth fees.

The board discussed Pedro's motion and Craig and Kalia volunteered to contact people that may have a more accurate sense of the costs involved with setting-up and running a high-speed Internet service. They will try to get a more accurate sense of the costs involved with high-speed Internet service.

For the time being, the board decided to wait on both Pedro's motion and Richard's motion from the last board meeting until some additional information becomes available to the board from Craig and Kalia.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.