

**VCN Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, Apr. 16, 2009**  
**411 Dunsmuir St., Vancouver, BC**

Board and staff in attendance: Jim Sayre, Richard Smith, Chantal Iorio, Anthony Swain, Travis Keyworth, Craig McLachlan, Michael Felczak, Kalia Turdova, Chris Chanhsamone, Sid Roberts.

Guests in attendance: Brendan Houle.

Meeting started at 6:10 PM.

MOTION to approve minutes from March 19th, 2009 board meeting – m/s/c.

Kalia presented the staff report:

- Received and email from Industry Canada indicating that CAP and CAPYI are likely to be continued for next year.
- City of Vancouver has approved VCN's grant application.
- Web team has recently finished a large project. Continue to work on projects and to promote services in the community via mobile open houses.

Chris presented the technical report:

- Security vulnerability on our email server was discovered and remedied. Plan is to separate out email and user server to improve security and stability.
- Volunteer is helping setup new server for request tracking.
- Also currently updating internal telephone system.

A member from VONIC recently borrowed three mesh routers for testing. This is somewhat unexpected and surprising given the recent notice from the VONIC board regarding the termination of a potential VCN/VONIC partnership pilot mesh wireless project.

Chris and Sid will setup a test mesh wireless network at 411 Dunsmuir St. to test out and experiment with the mesh wireless routers and related software. Once this small pilot is complete, VCN can then approach a small co-op housing unit interested in providing Internet sharing for its households. Peter Royce has indicated that the co-op where he resides may be interested in a pilot project of this sort.

Tony and Kalia sent out the first VCN newsletter in March. Tony received some feedback from VCN members and has been responding to individuals.

Chantal and Tom presented the financial report:

- Current deficits and surpluses relative to budget are largely as a result of timing related to money coming in and going out currently relative to CAP and project transactions. CAP officially ended at the end of March 31, 2009.
- Revenue from donations has declined.

Richard presented additional information about the possibility of VCN providing high-speed Internet access:

- Can provide members with a high-speed service if we were to re-sell Teksavvy high-speed service at \$30/month
- Teksavvy purchases bandwidth from bulk bandwidth providers such as Telus. Teksavvy then manages this bandwidth, manages the high-speed accounts and associated billing, provides 24/7 support, as well as makes available high-speed modems for using the service.
- If VCN were to become a re-seller and provider of high-speed service, the cost to members would be approx. \$30/month.
- This would not generate any substantial revenue for VCN, but would rather be a value-added service to VCN members, who could obtain high-speed service through VCN as opposed to the standard providers. Members who wanted high-speed could thus stay with VCN and not need to leave to obtain high-speed.
- Teksavvy already works with other freenets in Canada, providing a similar service.
- Added benefit to VCN members is that they could share their high-speed Internet connection with their neighbours if they wished. Unlike terms of agreement from Telus or Shaw, which explicitly prohibit sharing of a household Internet connection, Teksavvy does not have this limitation. As a benefit to members, VCN could also make available a mesh router for wireless sharing of the high-speed Internet connection.
- If the Internet connection is shared among neighbours, cost to each person would be:
  - \$15/month if shared among 2 neighbours
  - \$10/month if shared among 3 neighbours
  - and so on.
- Sharing a high-speed Internet connection and its cost would provide members with a more affordable alternative to the standard, more expensive services from Telus or Shaw.

Richard put forward the following MOTION:

- that VCN become a re-seller of Teksavvy high-speed Internet service;
- advertise the new service on the VCN website;
- provide a small set of early adopters of the service with a complementary wireless mesh router;
- and make available information to members on ways to share their Internet connection.

The board decided to continue to discuss the possibility of providing high-speed Internet access to members at the next board meeting.

Richard left the meeting at 7:45 PM.

MOTION to add Brendan Houle to the board of directors – m/s/c.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.