

VCN Board Meeting
Thursday, July 17, 2008
411 Dunsmuir St., Vancouver, B.C.

In attendance: Jim Sayre, Richard Smith, Pedro Mora, Michael Felczak, Steven Chan, Kalia Turdova.

Guests in attendance: Scott Nelson (VONIC), Jeff Davis (VONIC), Mike West (FreeTheNet).

Meeting started at 6:00 PM.

Scott gave an overview/update of the wireless mesh collaboration project with VONIC:

- Scott is still a member of VONIC but has stepped down from the board.
- Currently there is one main developer working on the VONIC firmware. It is open source, so anyone can participate, but the actual programming is not easy.
- The VONIC firmware still includes some known bugs in the back-end administration software. There's been some testing, but not much real-world, in the field testing.
- The VONIC firmware should, in principle, be inter-operable with Meraki units that use their own firmware. Additional Meraki units could be made available by Mike West and FreeTheNet.
- Scott's question: Do we want to use VONIC software for all of the co-ops? Perhaps use VONIC software for some of the co-ops and try other software (default open-mesh firmware) for other co-ops? Potentially useful for comparison, for testing inter-operability.
- By default, the open-mesh software will send MAC address of connecting computer to open-mesh authentication server. It is needed as part of establishing the connection to the mesh and it is saved for 24 hours for back-end administration. Although this is relatively common, we could always setup our own local authentication server for this purpose.
- The board requested that Scott explicitly require that each housing co-op establish at least one business Internet account from an Internet service provider such as Shaw or Telus that will be used by the mesh network as the main connection to the Internet. This will ensure that sharing of the Internet connection is legal and within the terms of service of a business Internet account.

Scott Nelson, Jeff Davis, and Mike West left the meeting at 7:20 PM.

Richard provided an update of recent W2 meetings:

- Richard is on the steering committee.
- In the short term, there are plans to setup a board.
- Initial plans for allocation of W2 space among W2 members.

MOTION to approve minutes from May 8, 2008 board meeting – m/s/c.

Kalia and Steven presented the staff report:

- Industry Canada is still processing CAP claims from last year. There is a backlog and several CAP sites still remain unpaid.
- Industry Canada has extended CAP and CAPYI programs for 2008-2009. VCN has requested funds to support the existing CAP sites + some additional new CAP sites.

- VCN WebTeam has completed initial 3-month setup period and is now working independently. Team has setup website, portfolio, and brochure to announce its services to the community. The team has already completed several projects with local non-profits and is in contact with additional groups requesting custom web design services.
- VPL is recommending that agreement between VPL and VCN be extended into the future.
- Recent power outage in the downtown core did not affect VCN services, although unrelated power surge did take offline mail, web, and dial-up services for a few hours on June 25.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.