

VCN Board Retreat and Meeting
Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009
411 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, B.C.

In attendance: Jim Sayre, Chantal Iorio, Michael Felczak, Travis Keyworth, Brendan Houle, Anthony Swain, Steven Chan, Thom Hansen, Kalia Turdova, Chris Chanhsamone.

Meeting started at 10:30 AM.

The board reviewed and discussed VCN core services and activities:

- Internet dial-up
- Email and mailing lists
- Community webhosting
- CAP and CAPYI

Tom presented the financial statements and an initial draft of next year's budget.

- Initial draft budget includes a deficit for the following year, primarily as a result of additional staff costs and a decline in membership donations.
- The board decided to revisit the draft budget at the next board meeting once there has been an opportunity to discuss in greater detail planned projects and staffing needs for next year.

Brendan reviewed recent meetings and activities around VCN WIFI project:

- WIFI group met and discussed the project in more detail.
- Decided to provide interested CAP sites with a wireless-in-a-box kit that enables CAP site to easily plugin hardware to existing Internet connection and provide WIFI to its users.
- Need to decide on issues related to public access: should the WIFI start page include a splash screen with info about the CAP site and VCN? require login? require VCN membership?
- For the initial pilot project, the board decided to ensure that the WIFI start page should include a mix of summary information about additional services provided by the CAP site and VCN with links to more information about these services.
- 10 CAP sites have already expressed interest in the project

The board discussed sharing of the VCN/Teksavvy DSL high-speed connection:

- We should add an information page on how users can share their Internet connection (Ottawa freenet has a page on this that we can use as a template).
- Chris or Sid can set this up. Perhaps include some graphics in addition to text information about setup, potential costs, etc.

The board discussed and formed a hiring committee to find a replacement for Kalia's maternity leave.

- The committee includes Tom, Steven, Kalia, and Richard. Other board members welcome to join.
- Need to finalize job description details and deadlines for interviews and hiring.
- The hiring should be complete in time for Kalia to be able to explain the current processes and workflows (especially around CAP and CAPYI).

Steven discussed the new VONIC organization and recent wireless mesh projects:

- Old members and board did have some test projects in the DTES, but encountered difficulties and had difficulties retaining volunteers.

- New members and board (led by Greg and Mark).
- VCN wireless volunteer team met with VONIC members last month.
- Sharing of ideas and looking for synergies at this point.

The board discussed the recent City of Vancouver open data initiative:

- The board supports this initiative and decided to write a letter of support to encourage the City to implement this initiative.
- Open data from the city can be used in innovative and useful ways by organizations such as VCN (and others) to provide access to this data along with services that make use of this data.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM.