

Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee (ITPAC) Meeting Summary

July 13, 2023

8:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

Government Center – Conference Room 11

Committee Members:

Name	District/Organization	Present	Not Present
Edward Blum, Chairman	Providence District	X*	
Michael Aschenaki	Lee District		X
Carter Bates	Braddock District	X	
Anne Cahill	League of Women Voters	X*	
Dennis Carlton	Sully District	X	
Rajni Goel	Dranesville District	X	
John Hanks	Federation of Citizens Association	X	
Susan Hoffman	Mason District	X	
Kendall Holbrook	Chamber of Commerce	X	
Richard Kostro	Mt. Vernon District		X
Mark Lay	NOVA Technology Council	X	
Brian McMahon	Hunter Mill District	X*	
Sean Rastatter	Springfield District	X	
Kathryn Walsh, Vice Chair	At Large Member	X	
VACANT	Fairfax County Public Schools		X

*Edward Blum (medical), Anne Cahill (medical), and Brian McMahon (personal) participated in the meeting remotely, in full accordance with ITPAC's approved Remote Meeting Policy approved in July 2022.

County Staff Present:

DIT – Greg Scott, (CTO); Nate Wentland; Rob Barr; Michelle Breckenridge; Brittany Cramer; Simran Dhami; Charlie Gore; Brian Heffern; Mike Liddle; Fara Maslaki; Linda Moore; Crispin Netto; Jeff Porter; Maura Power; Anita Rao; Frank Shutts (Admin Support)

DIT Interns – Unesco Basnet, Ashley Jacob, Jaskirat Singh, Alisha Lal, Karthikeya Nandi, Shreeja Tangutur, Aleena Ahmad, Noah Lee, Kousalya Potti, Alejandro Rodriguez, Amaya Arnic, Sharvani Roy, Blanca Carrillo, Rina Rivera, Omid Ghafoory, Ameen, Ahmadi, Edgardo Almendarez, Maseeh Lee

DMB – Mark Thomas

OPA/FOIA - Amanda Kastl; Maeve Bradley (intern); Peyton Walcott (intern)

DCCS: Holly Prymak (technical support)

July 13, 2023 Meeting Agenda:



ITPAC agenda July 13
FINAL.pdf

Note: Meeting materials were posted online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/informationtechnology/itpac and were sent to ITPAC members via email. This document will be posted on the ITPAC website.

ITPAC COMMITTEE MATTERS: Today's meeting was called to order at 8:12 A.M.

Verifying Quorum and Members of ITPAC Participating Remotely / Audio Check

After roll call and verifying that a quorum of members is participating onsite, the members of ITPAC who were participating remotely - Edward Blum (medical) Anne Cahill (medical) and Brian McMahon (personal) were asked to do an audio check to ensure that each member's voice is clear, audible, and at an appropriate volume for all members. Each of the remote members confirmed they could hear and be heard well. The remote members participated in the meeting in full accordance with ITPAC's approved Remote Meeting Policy approved in July 2022.

Despite holding this meeting in-person, alternative options for participation were made available. Because we are using Conference Room 11, we used the video teleconferencing technology in that room:

VIDEO CONNECTION

Connect to Fairfax County Conference Room 11 via Video Connection

- From Chrome, Firefox, or Edge Web Browser, please select or copy/paste the link below:
<https://join.vc2.fairfaxcounty.gov/invited.sf?secret=d15civfbmotdYCUOh4A4ag&id=65003>

PHONE BACKUP CONNECTION

Connect to Fairfax County Conference Room 11 via Phone Connection

- Dial: 703-324-2690
- Enter Call ID: 65003#
- Enter PIN: 3296#

Minutes

- Brian Heffern noted a couple of small changes to the 3/23/23 Minutes document sent to ITPAC for review at the top and middle of page 1 and the bottom of Page 4. A motion to approve the minutes from the 3/23/23 meeting as amended was moved by John Hanks, multiply seconded, and approved unanimously.

Membership Matters

- On the vacant Fairfax County Public School Board ITPAC seat - Correspondence was sent to the FCPS Assistant Superintendent of IT requesting assistance in filling the vacancy. Greg Scott to follow up with FCPS.
- Mark Lay (NoVA Technology Council) still requires reappointment. He is continuing to serve in the interim until a resolution is reached.
- Membership expirations on December 31, 2023: Carter Bates, Ed Blum, John Hanks, Sue Hoffman, Kendall Holbrook, and Sean Rastatter

DISCUSSION:

Issue of the Day – This interactive discussion is conducted prior to any formal DIT presentations, to encourage meaningful discussion and conversation on IT topics of interest. This is an opportunity for ITPAC members to share insight into IT-related challenges and issues with which they are currently dealing and allow for discussion and/or DIT staff to ask questions.

- Today's focus was a follow up to the discussion at the 3/23/23 meeting where ITPAC recommended that the County consider forming a governance subcommittee on appropriate and responsible uses of Chat GPT/AI.

- A recommendation to hold a tech-focused “AI Day” or similar concept was put forward by Carter Bates. Discussion ensued focusing on what that may look like. ITPAC focuses on two main aspects: technology and legal/ethical. This is not intended to simply be a vendor opportunity. The intent is a gathering of subject matter experts and interested stakeholders who can discuss use cases and best practices.
- Also, could consider an award aspect for governments or others doing innovative work in this area.
- Further discussion ensues with input from Sean Rastatter, Rajni Goel, Kendall Holbrook, and many others noting that Generative AI is changing almost every day. Two concern areas are data loss and putting guardrails in place for use. It is noted that governments do not have those guardrails at this time. Considerable privacy and security concerns exist, and policies and procedures need to be considered, developed, and implemented.
- Mark Lay notes that it is important to not just limit review to just text GPT as there are other uses such as real time language dubbing and other video based GPT technologies that need to be considered.
- Maura Power shares that the County has already begun doing work in Responsible AI and summarizes the focus areas and initiatives underway (policy, evaluation, developing guidance, education, and implementation to meet county needs)
- Kendall Holbrook summarizes that at a high level there are two questions we are discussing, namely - How do you control access? How do we leverage AI in our business? We need to accept that AI is already and will continue to be imbedded in our work. There are appropriate and non-appropriate uses. These need to be defined and disseminated.
- Sean Rastatter concludes that the overwhelming good of AI outweighs the bad; however, AI needs to be explainable, i.e. we need to know from what source information an answer is pulled from. The “garbage in garbage out” analogy is used to make the point that if an AI response is pulled from unreliable, unvetted or biased sources, that the AI response will reflect that.
- Dennis Carlton notes that whatever AI policy or direction the County takes needs to be consistent with the County Strategic Plan and DIT’s strategic direction. Greg Scott concurs.
- On the security side, our main use of AI technology has been in endpoint protection. Charlie Gore notes that the County already has significant acceptable use policies in place; however, they require updating and revision to accommodate more widespread use of AI and related technology.
- Much follow-up work remains and will be focused on several areas. Carter Bates will provide some additional information on the “Tech-focused AI Day” concept and Maura Power/Nate Wentland will coordinate with Sean Rastatter and Rajni Goel on the Governance Board concept as well as other AI-related topics discussed both on March 23 and today.

AGENDA:

The other focus of today’s meeting is to provide a forum for an open question and answer session in which DIT’s summer interns will ask questions of ITPAC members on topics of IT and related areas of interest and let the conversation go wherever it leads.

The following questions were asked by the interns. The conversation was wide ranging and engaging with a lot of useful advice shared. Some questions were general questions to any ITPAC member while some were directed to specific members. Those will be indicated below.

- In IT, how (if any) does the implementation of new technologies differ between the public sector, universities, and private sector?
- How has the involvement of ITPAC in Fairfax County influenced the development and implementation of IT-related policies and initiatives within the county? (Blum/Walsh)

- What types of classes, extracurriculars and other programs would you recommend for furthering interest in IT? Are there any particular ones that shaped your direction and/or led to your career path?
- How have you been able to overcome any challenges you may have faced as a minority, to achieve the success you have reached today, and how have those experiences shaped the person you are today? (Holbrook, Goel, Aschenaki)
- With the rise of Internet of things (IOT) devices, what are the main challenges this poses for network security?
- Given your experience with both SWIFT and Artificial Intelligence, have you seen cases of Artificial Intelligence being used maliciously for fraud in financial systems like SWIFT? If so, what does this AI-enhanced fraud even look like? (Rastatter)
- How can we ensure the fairness and transparency of algorithms used in AI systems? How do we prevent/limit discrimination and bias when using machine learning and promote the responsible use of AI? (Rastatter)
- What are the differences in deploying artificial intelligence and machine learning applications between cloud computing and edge computing environments?
- With the diversity in Fairfax County, whether it be from a cultural standpoint or as a county that has significant numbers of individuals with disabilities, what are some ways technology or data can be used to improve accessibility for all?
- As a representative of the AFCEA International Executive Committee, could you describe how IT has been applied towards advancing military communications technology? (Hoffman)
- Do you think cloud computing can be implemented with emergency systems to improve efficiency and response times? (McMahon)
- How did you achieve your current position, and what advice do you have for those who would like to pursue the same? (Holbrook/Others)

Significant networking between ITPAC members and the interns occurred after the meeting adjourned.

CONCLUSION:

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 A.M.

The next regular ITPAC meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2023, at 8:00 A.M. It will be a remote meeting.