



# CITIZEN INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY PANEL

Quality Services for a Quality Community

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## MINUTES

**July 19, 2017**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
Courtroom 1  
54B District Court  
101 Linden St.

### MEMBERS

Margy Barile  
East Lansing

Dennis Bond  
East Lansing

Doug Couto  
East Lansing

Lauren Douglass  
East Lansing

Jonathan Irvin  
East Lansing

Thasin Sardar  
East Lansing

Bruce Edwards  
East Lansing

City Council Liaison  
Erik Altmann

Staff Liaison  
Thomas Crane

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER

### a. OPENING

Couto called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

### b. ROLL CALL

At the taking of the roll, panel members Irvin, Barile, Sardar were absent. Councilmember Altmann had notified the panel that he would not be in attendance.

### c. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JUNE 21, 2017

Douglass motioned for approval, Edwards seconded, and the minutes were approved.

## 2. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

None received.

## 3. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Crane reported to the group his finding on a welcome packet that is already available on the city's website.

Couto reviewed the feedback received from the Neighborhood Presidents and Commissions meeting.

Edwards talked about the topic of open data as a follow-up to the surveys. Edwards also talked about Sunlight Foundation and how open data can be used at the City of East Lansing.

In response to some panel members concerns, Crane stated that the panel should consider making recommendations on how to better align technology to the city's strategic plans. Couto expressed that such a recommendation should include some specific examples that have been discussed by the panel over the past year. The group agreed to start creating a recommendation report at the next meeting.

Douglass provided an update on East Lansing Robotics Fest (September 17). Edwards volunteered to assist. He and Douglass will determine details.

Note: The event encourages children, young adults, and parents to participate in the inaugural event, being held on Sunday, September 17, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Valley Court Park. The event is FREE and open to the public. During the festival, school aged children in 1st-12th grade are welcome to partner with hosts from the Michigan State University Engineering Program, Information Technology Empowerment Center (ITEC), and East Lansing Public Library to create robots and watch them COMPETE.

The CITP would like to contact MSU to see if there are any areas of mutual interest where the City and the University may work together. Bond reported that he had some difficulty scheduling a meeting with the Chief Information Officer at Michigan State University. Edwards also informed the group that his contacts at Michigan State University

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were also unavailable at this time. Couto will contact the CIO or the Assistant Vice President for Community Relations, Office of Government Affairs to facilitate a meeting with the team working on innovation and technology at the University.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

### a. SENIOR COMMISSION UPDATE

Couto met with the East Lansing Senior Commission and the team at the Prime Time Seniors program to discuss the work of the CITP and explore areas that CITP may be able to support using innovation and technology connections around the community. They are interested in working with the members of the CITP to support Prime Time program needs.

Items for the CITP to consider:

1. Strong interest in joint sponsorship of cyber safety programs offered by the MI Attorney General's Office. Doug Couto and Lisa Richey will work on getting a session scheduled to be part of their Fall program. We would like to recruit a sponsor to make the event a hosted light lunch.
2. There is a strong demand for additional instruction/help with basic browser programs. People want to learn how to use internet services such as access to electronic medical records. The current instructor is fully booked. They need additional capacity.
3. There is a need to connect clients with available paid and volunteer services such as transportation, yard work, snow removal, and entertainment. This may be an area for doing a code a thon.
4. In their most recent semiannual survey (survey monkey) of residents 55+ years old, there was a 46% response that they should offer more and expand technology related programs. Cyber safety was the most requested area of concern followed by finding e-coupons, and shopping bargains. I indicated that the CITP may be able to assist with locating resources address these needs.

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5. There are a good number of other topics that did not address technology but may be enhanced by using technology. These include: brain teasers, estate planning, aging in place, wellness programs, day trips, etc.
6. They are updating their membership form to capture info about members. While we didn't discuss it, there may be a way to address an easier way to create and manage the data base.
7. Couto discussed the need for having multiple channels to serve the different technology needs of their members as well as others in the EL Community.
8. They are moving forward to conduct a survey funded by an AARP Grant to support making East Lansing an Age Friendly Community. The lead asked for our help with crafting technology questions for the survey. (More background details about the Age Friendly Community are posted on the CITP Google drive)

**ACTION ITEM:** Decide if the CITP want to engage more proactively with the East Lansing Senior Commission and the Prime Time program. The CITP decided to move forward with the cyber safety program and assist where possible in the other areas. More discussion is needed to determine how to best engage with the Prime Time Program.

Douglass also spoke about past interactions of PrimeTime and East Lansing Public Library and challenges related to using various funding approaches.

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## **7. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND ACTION ITEMS**

Edwards stated that he would provide additional information about open data. Couto discussed the start of creating a table of contents for the alignment of technology with city strategies.

## **8. REPORT BY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND ACTION ITEMS**

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Edwards moved to adjourn the meeting. Douglass seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.