



# City Council Agenda Bill

22869

Bill Number

Subject: **Mayor's Appointments of Members of the Broadband Advisory Group (Approval)**

Summary Statement: City Council Resolution 2020-31, created the ad hoc Broadband Advisory Workgroup. The Workgroup consists of 9 appointed community representatives as well as Ex-Officio members. Council approval of the Mayor's recommended list of 9 community representatives is required. Ex-Officio members are invited to participate solely by the Mayor. The Mayor is recommending the following names to serve as community representatives: Maximillian Carper, Linda Fels, Don Gischer, Kristopher Keillor, Michelle Koptcha, Milissa Miller, Spencer Moore, Steven Spitzer, and Russell (RB) Tewksbury.

Previous Council Action: **Council Resolution 2020-31**

Fiscal Impact: **The 2021-2022 Budget includes \$100,000 in General Fund for consultant services in support of work assigned to this advisory group.**

Funding Source: **General Fund**

- Attachments:
1. STAFF MEMO - BROADBAND ADVISORY WORKGROUP MEMBER APPOINTMENTS
  2. CARPER APPLICATION
  3. FELS APPLICATION
  4. GISCHER APPLICATION
  5. KEILLOR APPLICATION
  6. KOPCHA APPLICATION
  7. MILLER APPLICATION
  8. MOORE APPLICATION
  9. SPITZER APPLICATION
  10. TEWKSBURY APPLICATION

Meeting Activity	Meeting Date	Recommendation	Presented By	Time
Mayor's Report - Appointment - For Approval	1/11/2021	Approve Appointment	Mayor Seth Fleetwood	0 minutes

**Recommended Motion:**

**Council Committee:**

**Agenda Bill Contact:**  
Tracy Lewis, Mayor's Office

**Council Action:**

Reviewed By	Department	Date
<i>Eric C. Johnston</i>	Public Works	1/05/2021
<i>Peter M. Ruffatto</i>	Legal	1/05/2021
<i>Peter M. Ruffatto</i>	Legal	1/06/2021
<i>Seth M. Fleetwood</i>	Executive	1/06/2021



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## STAFF REPORT

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**TO:** CITY COUNCIL  
**FROM:** ERIC JOHNSTON, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR  
**CC:** MAYOR SETH FLEETWOOD  
**SUBJECT:** APPOINTMENT OF THE BROADBAND ADVISORY WORKGROUP MEMBERS  
**DATE:** January 11, 2021

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**BACKGROUND:** In August, 2020, the Bellingham City Council adopted Resolution 2020-031 creating the ad hoc Broadband Advisory Workgroup. The purpose of the Workgroup is to:

*“...evaluate the possibility of municipally owned broadband infrastructure as one way to further the goals of greater availability, affordability, equitability, and quality of broadband access across the community; to address policy considerations, and the financial costs and benefits thereto; to assess existing conditions related to broadband access, equity and affordability as well as options and ways to use the City of Bellingham fiber optic network as it exists today, or as may be expanded or improved, to improve access, equity and affordability to quality broadband and to the report findings and recommendations to the City so that the Council can hold public discussions on a broadband infrastructure policy.”*

By Council Resolution the Workgroup is comprised of 9 community members and industry professionals to be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. The resolution also allows the Mayor to appoint non-voting ex-officio members to serve and support the Workgroup.

Following adoption of the resolution, notice was posted inviting applications to serve on the Workgroup. As of the date of this memo, 30 applications have been received.

**EVALUATION OR RESPONSE:** Applications were received by the Mayor's office staff and referred to responsible staff for evaluation. Written applications were reviewed and ranked by staff from the Public Works and Information Technology Departments. Interviews were conducted by Public Works Department staff via video conference or telephone.

Applicants demonstrated a wide range of expertise, knowledge, experience and diversity. Many applicants have experience directly related to internet technology and business. Others had general interests of community but with specific technology training or professional background. Several applicants applied to serve and support the Workgroup on behalf of companies involved in broadband infrastructure. The applicant pool is strong with a diversity of backgrounds and interests. All of the candidates who applied brought unique skill sets and a diversity of backgrounds.

With a strong pool and diverse backgrounds staff recommends that the 9 voting members of the Workgroup be selected from community members who do not represent the large telecommunication companies. The 9 voting members of the workgroup would not currently work for or currently represent a large internet service provider or fiber optic infrastructure provider. The 9 voting members could have interests or employment, current or previous, related to alternative delivery of internet services as compared to a conventional ISP. Industry interests from the large telecommunication companies who own telecommunications infrastructure can be invited to serve and support the Workgroup as non-voting ex officio members. This structure will ensure that industries currently providing internet infrastructure are included in the process to both support and inform the efforts of the Workgroup.

Forming the Workgroup in this fashion also minimizes the appearance of a conflict of interest and allows for all perspectives to be heard while also including the technical expertise from a wide variety of sources. Furthermore, an actual conflict of interest cannot exist by a regular or ex officio member of the Workgroup since Resolution 2020-030 creating the Workgroup does not grant, and specifically prohibits, any, "...influence or control over any contract, procurement, award, or contract administration."

The pool of applicants includes both residents and non-residents. The Council chose to allow the Workgroup to be formed with both City residents and non-city residents but with preference to City residents. The City Charter also places importance on City residency for boards and commissions. While reviewing applications staff placed first emphasis on City residents and found that the expertise in the general, technology and business interests could be found and the 9 person Workgroup fully appointed with persons residing within City limits. In order to have a more demographically diverse board, applicants residing outside of City limits were also considered. Expanding the selection pool to residents living near but outside city limits was critical to ensuring that Workgroup represents the greater Bellingham community and not a single age, gender or race demographic. After the initial technical review of written applications, some candidates were interviewed via video conference call. The interviews focused on how each candidate would bring diversity, work to find consensus and how the candidate would represent the greater Bellingham community.

The Resolution also directs a neutral facilitator to be retained to support the Workgroup. Following a standard solicitation process, staff selected and contracted with Ms. Emily Barnett Highleyman with Kulshan Services, Inc. to be the service provider.

**SUMMARY:** With that background the following persons, in no particular order, are recommended for appointment to the City of Bellingham ad hoc Broadband Advisory Workgroup.

In no particular order:

**Milissa Miller:** Milissa retired from a long career associated with fiber optic deployments on the west coast. Melissa has a strong background in relevant business and operations.

**Steven Spitzer:** Steve recently retired from a long career working with international organizations to develop standards and policies for maritime communications requiring a consensus and diverse perspectives in highly technical fields. Steve has a general interest in serving the community.

**Linda Fels:** Linda retired from a career as a software developer with the Indian Health Services and is a small business owner relying on internet access.

**Maximilian Carper:** Maximilian is an IT and network technology professional with as strong technical background relevant to the conversation.

**Kristopher Keillor:** Kristopher is an electrical engineering student at WWU with relevant technical expertise. Kristopher has been a disaster relief volunteer with Americorps and is interested in engaging in more civic issues.

**RB Tewksbury:** RB has a strong background in business administration and finance. RB has served on the Board of several non-profit organizations.

**Don Gischer:** Don is a former Bellingham City Council member with a background in business and general public policy. Don has been recently active in supporting access to city services for the hearing impaired using technology (eg hearing loops)

**Michelle Kopcha:** A former livestock veterinarian and educator, Michelle brings a broad, general perspective. Michelle has been active in the community through the League of Women voters and Bellingham City Club.

**Spencer Moore:** Spencer is a network engineer with a strong technical background relevant to the conversation.

**As Ex Officio members:**

David Brinn, Wave Communications

Vincent Buys, Comcast

Kurt Gazow, Bellingham School District IT

Allan Meeks, MOX Fiber

David Namura, Lumen (formerly Centurylink)

Gina Stark, Port of Bellingham

Brian Walter, Whatcom PUD

**City Staff:**

Eric Johnston, City of Bellingham, Public Works

Marty Mulholland, City of Bellingham, ITSD

**RECOMMENDATION ACTION:**

Appoint the following: Milissa Miller, Steven Spitzer, Linda Fels, Maximilian Carper, Kristopher Keillor, RB Tewksbury, Don Gischer, Michelle Kopcha and Spencer Moore as the 9 voting members of the Broadband Advisory Workgroup.



Office of the Mayor  
 City Hall, 210 Lottie Street  
 Bellingham, WA 98225  
 Phone (360) 778-8100 Fax (360) 778-8101

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO  
 CITY OF BELLINGHAM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS  
 (Please Type or Print Clearly)

Candidates must presently live within Bellingham City limits and have done so for at least one year, unless otherwise specified. Elected City officials, city officers and employees, and residents having conflicts of interest are ineligible for appointments to City advisory boards. Complete, sign and return this application to the Mayor's Office, City Hall, 210 Lottie Street, Bellingham, WA 98225.

Note: As a candidate to a public board or commission, this information may be made available to the public.

I am interested in serving on the: Broadband Advisory Group  
 (Board / Commission)

Name: Maximillian R. Carper

Mailing Address: Bellingham, WA 98226 Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a resident of the City of Bellingham (live within the city limits)? YES  NO

How long have you lived in Bellingham? Lived in Whatcom County 1.5 yrs (Since Nov 2018)

Neighborhood in which you reside Toad Lake

Current Occupation: I.T. Consultant, Software Developer, and Entrepreneur (small business owner)

OR - if retired, former occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Education: 22 years of on-the-job experience in the I.T. industry

Professional / Community Activities: NextDoor Lead/Moderator, Lifelong AIDS Alliance volunteer

Qualifications Related to Position: Own a local work-from-home I.T. Consulting firm that depends on broadband Internet to function. Director of I.T. for 3 companies where we used fiber/MetroE Internet feeds.

Describe why you are interested in serving on this Board or Commission: I love Bellingham/WC, and want to be part of its future. I have a unique personal and business background which will enable me to provide very useful input on a project like this. As a lead/moderator on NextDoor, I am well-connected to our community.

\*Please feel free to submit any additional documentation (resumé, explanation of experience specifically related to this board/commission).

Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which does business with the City of Bellingham? YES  NO

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

8/28/2020  
 Today's Date

Maximillian R. Carper  
 Signature of Applicant

**From:** Maximillian R. Carper  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 30, 2020 2:44 PM  
**To:** MY - [mayorsoffice@cob.org](mailto:mayorsoffice@cob.org) <[mayorsoffice@cob.org](mailto:mayorsoffice@cob.org)>; Johnston, Eric C. <[ecjohnston@cob.org](mailto:ecjohnston@cob.org)>  
**Subject:** My application to join the COB Broadband Advisory Workgroup

Dear Mayor Fleetwod and Director Johnston,

As a proud almost-two-year Whatcom County resident, I am excited about the City of Bellingham's efforts to explore ways you can improve the availability and affordability of broadband Internet access to its residents. As the owner of a small, I.T./Software Consulting business here in Whatcom County ("WC"), where all employees work remotely/from home, and where I am mentoring an intern from Whatcom Community College, I know firsthand how *crucial* access to broadband can be these days, especially when it comes to educational, career, and business opportunities. I suspect that access to broadband is even more of a problem outside of the city, and so I am happy COB is taking leadership on these efforts, but strongly hope that Whatcom County considers partnering with COB on this project. This project is important to me personally, and I have a unique set of knowledge and experience that makes me particularly well-suited to help make it a success. With that in mind, I am asking you to consider my application for a position on this Broadband Advisory Workgroup.

I have been the Director of I.T. for small and mid-sized companies, the Enterprise Systems Supervisor (aka I.T. Manager) for a large ad agency (where we served Walgreens, Southwest Airlines, and the United States Air Force), and the IT Ops & Infrastructure manager for a large chain of medical clinics. All of those positions required me to interface with companies like CenturyLink, AT&T, Time Warner, and Comcast, to manage enterprise-grade broadband connections (typically over fiber). Those positions—in addition to my current role as the owner of a small business—also required me to effectively manage projects and teams, and use ingenuity to get the most out of our infrastructure on a limited budget—some budgets much more conservative than others. I have been in I.T. my entire career, and was an early adopter of DSL (the first residential broadband available), using funds from my part-time job as a teenager to pay for my DSL modem and line... so I have always been a broadband enthusiast. And, on a "community engagement" note, I am an active user—and moderator/"Neighborhood Lead"—on the neighborhood social platform NextDoor, so I could easily engage with the community to solicit feedback on this topic, when needed. You will be hard-pressed to find another Bellingham/Whatcom County resident who is so uniquely-qualified for this role.

I hope you agree that my unique set of skills and experience, along with my passion for technology—and the broadband Internet it depends on—will make me particularly effective as a member of the Broadband Advisory Workgroup. Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your work towards making Bellingham a better place for all of its residents.

Regards,

Maximillian R. Carper  
The logo for CARPER Business Automation features a stylized circular icon on the left, composed of three interlocking loops. To the right of the icon, the word "CARPER" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below "CARPER", the words "Business Automation" are written in a smaller, sans-serif font.



Office of the Mayor  
 City Hall, 210 Lottie Street  
 Bellingham, WA 98225  
 Phone (360) 778-8100 Fax (360) 778-8101

**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO  
 CITY OF BELLINGHAM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**  
*(Please Type or Print Clearly)*

Candidates must presently live within Bellingham City limits and have done so for at least one year, unless otherwise specified. Elected City officials, city officers and employees, and residents having conflicts of interest are ineligible for appointments to City advisory boards. Complete, sign and return this application to the Mayor's Office, City Hall, 210 Lottie Street, Bellingham, WA 98225.

Note: As a candidate to a public board or commission, this information may be made available to the public.

I am interested in serving on the: Broadband Advisory Workgroup  
 (Board / Commission)

Name: Linda J Fels

Mailing Address: Bellingham, WA Zip Code: 98226

Street Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: Home: --- Cell: --- Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a resident of the City of Bellingham (live within the city limits)? YES  NO

How long have you lived in Bellingham? Since May 1996 (24+ years)

Neighborhood in which you reside Silver Beach

Current Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

OR – If retired, former occupation: Software Developer (22 years) + Nutritional Therapy Practitioner (7 years)

Education: BA In Economics/Spanish; BS in Computer Science; certification in Nutritional Therapy

Professional / Community Activities: Owned small business in Bellingham; ran capital campaign for Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship addition; local chapter leader for Weston A Price Foundation

Qualifications Related to Position: Conversant in computer technology, its promises and limitations and in nutritional science dealing with clients having EMF sensitivity.

Describe why you are interested in serving on this Board or Commission: I believe in using technology in a wise and effective manner. Fiber optic to the premises has the potential to offer Bellingham residents and

businesses reliable, secure and fast broadband access. I want to help in determining if it is best for our city.

\*Please feel free to submit any additional documentation (resumé, explanation of experience specifically related to this board/commission).

Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which does business with the City of Bellingham? YES  NO

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

September 3, 2020  
 Today's Date

Linda J. Fels  
 Signature of Applicant

September 8, 2020

Mayor's Office, City Hall,  
210 Lottie Street,  
Bellingham, WA 98225

**RECEIVED**

EXECUTIVE  
DEPARTMENT

Mayor Fleetwood,

I am writing to express my interest in participating in the Broadband Advisory Workgroup.

I have a technical background, having designed, developed and supported computer systems for the Indian Health Service (IHS) for 20+ years. I also have been a small business owner here in Bellingham from 2013 until December 2019 with my nutrition practice - Inner Wisdom Nutrition.

In both professions I experienced our local lack of high speed, reliable broadband access. After moving to Bellingham in 1996 while still working for IHS, I supported Indian hospitals and clinics around the country from my home office. With my nutrition practice, I moved my office from Fairhaven to my home so I could have more control over the access. More and more clients felt sick in the WIFI environment that pervades the Fairhaven business district. I was able to create a non-WIFI space at home but would have preferred faster access. I know the frustration many business owners experience with Internet access which we know could be faster, more secure, and more reliable.

I am very passionate about the possibility of expanded use of the current city fiber optic network for use by businesses and homes. I hope you will seriously consider my application for the workgroup.

Thank you,

Linda J Fels





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 City Hall, 210 Louise Street  
 Bellingham, WA 98225  
 Phone (360) 778-8100 Fax (360) 778-8101

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Note: As a candidate to a public board or commission, this information may be made available to the public.

I am interested in serving on the Broadband Advisory Workgroup  
 (Board / Commission)

Name: Don Gischer

Mailing Address: Bellingham WA Zip Code: 98226

Street Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a resident of the City of Bellingham (live within the city limits)? YES  NO

How long have you lived in Bellingham? 52 years

Neighborhood in which you reside Alabaster Hill

Current Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

OR -- if retired, former occupation: Manufacturer & Operator

Education: AAS in Computer Network Engineering Technology

Professional / Community Activities: Volunteers with Hearing Loss Association of America, working with hearing assistive technology for hard of hearing

Qualifications Related to Position: Technology degree, experience working as help desk attendant and computer technician

Describe why you are interested in serving on this Board or Commission: Longstanding interest in technology. Desire to serve my community, to share with and learn from others to promote broadband use.

\*Please feel free to submit any additional documentation - resume - explanation of experience specifically related to the board/commission)

Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which does business with the City of Bellingham? YES  NO

If yes, please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

9/03/20  
 Today's Date

Don Gischer  
 Signature of Applicant

RECEIVED

EXECUTIVE  
DEPARTMENT

Mayor Seth Fleetwood

City of Bellingham

210 Lottie Street

Bellingham, WA 98225

September 3, 2020

Dear Mayor Fleetwood,

I am applying to serve on the Broadband Advisory Workgroup. Access to the internet that has low latency, high bandwidth, high speed and is reliable is now more than ever so important in today's business and consumer world. An impartial study of what is possible and plausible regarding a City owned broadband infrastructure is certainly warranted and I would like to be part of that study.

As my Application for Appointment indicates, I have an AAS degree in Computer Network Engineering Technology and experience as a technician and help desk attendant working for several internet Service Providers and technology companies. However, I am retired now, and would like to serve in the General slot on the workgroup.

I am a volunteer with N-CHAT, a program affiliated with the Hearing Loss Association of America a nonprofit organization. N-CHAT is short for Network of Consumer Hearing Assistive Technology Trainers. Its mission is to assist others in the successful integration of hearing assistive technology to support individual hearing and communication needs at home, work, school and the community. Newer technologies, equipment, and applications that are dependent on a low latency and fast internet are so helpful to the hard of hearing and others.

I have a long history of interest and experience in computers and technology. I purchased my first computer in 1984; computer technology has been my constant companion since then.

Thank you for your consideration for appointment to this workgroup, I look forward to your response.

My best,



Don Gischer

Bellingham, WA 98226

**Lewis, Tracy L.**

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**From:** noreply@cob.org on behalf of City of Bellingham <noreply@cob.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 14, 2020 9:32 PM  
**To:** Lewis, Tracy L.  
**Subject:** Boards and Commissions Application - Kristopher Keillor

## **City of Bellingham**

### **Boards and Commissions Application**

#### **Entry Details**

**WHICH BOARD OR COMMISSION ARE YOU INTERESTED IN?** Broadband Advisory Workgroup

**NAME** Kristopher Keillor

**EMAIL**

**PRIMARY PHONE**

**SECONDARY PHONE**

**MAILING ADDRESS** Washington 98226

**IS YOUR HOME ADDRESS THE SAME AS YOUR MAILING ADDRESS?** Yes

**DO YOU LIVE WITHIN BELLINGHAM CITY LIMITS?** Yes

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN BELLINGHAM?** 1 year 9 months

**WHAT NEIGHBORHOOD DO YOU LIVE IN?** Roosevelt

<b>CURRENT (OR FORMER IF RETIRED), OCCUPATION</b>	Full-time Electrical Engineering Student / ISP Startup Founder
<b>HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION</b>	Incoming Junior at Western Washington University
<b>PROFESSIONAL / COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES YOU ARE INVOLVED IN</b>	Team Rubicon disaster relief volunteer Peer Mentor at WWU Makerspace bellingham.codes Member Recently joined Whatcom County Democratic Socialists of America, Bellingham Makerspace, & Technology Alliance Guild NW
<b>QUALIFICATIONS RELATED TO THIS POSITION</b>	Current Electrical Engineering Student Former IT professional (1yr experience) Former Software QA professional (1yr experience) Former Communications Coordinator for Team Rubicon (1yr experience) Completed term of Disaster Relief volunteering service with AmeriCorps FEMA Corps Class 23B (10 months experience) Former Mutual Aid Disaster Relief technology coordinator 2016 Bernie Sanders state delegate
<b>DESCRIBE WHY YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THIS BOARD OR COMMISSION</b>	<p>I am a longtime volunteer in both civic and political areas with an enduring passion for justice. I know true justice requires more than social concessions: it requires economic equality.</p> <p>The Coronavirus disaster highlights the broadband divide, a continuing economic inequality that degrades the opportunities of poor and rural folk for education, employment, and health. As part of this workgroup, I would assist the City in leveling access to internet, an essential utility, for all Americans.</p>
<b>YES/NO TO THE ABOVE:</b>	Yes
<b>IF YES PLEASE EXPLAIN</b>	Founder of Cony Internet Service Provider, an ISP enrolling subscribers in Van Wyck, WA for low-cost, high-speed, community-owned broadband internet.
<b>UPLOAD FILES</b>	

**Lewis, Tracy L.**

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**From:** noreply@cob.org on behalf of City of Bellingham <noreply@cob.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 18, 2020 3:54 PM  
**To:** Lewis, Tracy L.  
**Subject:** Boards and Commissions Application - Michelle Kopcha  
**Attachments:** Broadband Advisory Group.pdf

## **City of Bellingham**

### **Boards and Commissions Application**

### **Entry Details**

**WHICH BOARD OR COMMISSION ARE YOU INTERESTED IN?** Broadband Advisory Workgroup

**NAME** Michelle Kopcha

**EMAIL**

**PRIMARY PHONE** . . . . .

**SECONDARY PHONE**

**MAILING ADDRESS** . . . . . Bellingham, Washington 98225

**IS YOUR HOME ADDRESS THE SAME AS YOUR MAILING ADDRESS?** Yes

**DO YOU LIVE WITHIN BELLINGHAM CITY LIMITS?** Yes

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN BELLINGHAM?** 8 years

**WHAT NEIGHBORHOOD DO YOU LIVE IN?** South Hill

<b>CURRENT (OR FORMER IF RETIRED) OCCUPATION</b>	Veterinarian & faculty member at Michigan State University
<b>HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION</b>	DVM plus post graduate Masters
<b>PROFESSIONAL / COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES YOU ARE INVOLVED IN</b>	League of Women Voters Bellingham City Club
<b>QUALIFICATIONS RELATED TO THIS POSITION</b>	I would fit the Workgroup Member Requirements of "General", based on my 30 plus years of experience in higher education at a major university. Also, I am a problem solver and work well with diverse groups to bring together ideas into a plan of action.
<b>DESCRIBE WHY YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THIS BOARD OR COMMISSION</b>	My interest in serving on this board comes from two major concerns. The first regards societal inequity that occurs with lack of access to Broadband such as educational opportunities, emergency alerts/public service announcements, as well as so many other features that help keep us all "in the loop". The second concern is economic development. Without robust Broadband service throughout our county, we will lag further behind in attracting businesses to this part of the world.
<b>YES/NO TO THE ABOVE:</b>	No
<b>UPLOAD FILES</b>	Broadband Advisory Group.pdf



MICHELLE KOPCHA

BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON 98225

September 18, 2020

TO: Mayor Seth Fleetwood  
Office of the Mayor  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225

RE: Broadband Advisory Workgroup

Dear Mayor Fleetwood and Selection Committee:

I am interested in being an active member of the Broadband Advisory Workgroup for the following reasons:

1. Access to quality, affordable Broadband is as critical to community health as all other utilities (water and electrical power) and should be considered a necessary utility.
2. Reliable, accessible, affordable Broadband is a basic offering when advertising this county for economic development. We will be left behind in the race for attracting business to Whatcom without this service.
3. Without Broadband service, educational opportunities for residents are severely limited. The ability to advance skills and obtain high quality jobs becomes much more difficult and some folks may never recover from this type of inequity.

My addition to the Workgroup would fall under the category of General Community member. I see this role as one of active listening, raising questions, participating in problem solving and challenging (in a good way) the status quo. My training as a livestock veterinarian and my career as an educator in this field have allowed me to practice these skills on an almost daily basis throughout my career.

I appreciate your consideration of me for the Workgroup. Whoever is selected, I am sure you will bring together an active engaged group of professionals with a common goal of getting Whatcom Wired!

Sincerely,  
Michelle Kopcha, DVM, MS (retired)



Office of the Mayor  
 City Hall, 210 Lottie Street  
 Bellingham, WA 98225  
 Phone (360) 778-8100 Fax (360) 778-8101

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Note: As a candidate to a public board or commission, this information may be made available to the public.

I am interested in serving on the: Broadband Advisory Workgroup  
 (Board / Commission)

Name: Milissa Miller

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: 98226

Street Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: Home: NA Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: NA

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a resident of the City of Bellingham (live within the city limits)? YES  NO

How long have you lived in Bellingham? I lived in the city of Bellingham from 1980-1988

Neighborhood in which you reside Lake Whatcom

Current Occupation: Retired

OR - If retired, former occupation: Executive VP Fiber Design and Construction WaveBroadband, Black Rock Cable

Education: Graduate of Bellingham High, Classes at Bellingham Technical College, Whatcom Community College 7 WWU

Professional / Community Activities: Sat on the Board of the Literacy Council, active Whatcom Community Foundation

Qualifications Related to Position: Worked at KVOS-TV 22 years accounting and IT manager, 6 years VP Operations FiberCloud, Internet Data Center, 12 years building fiber and broadband services from Blaine to Santa Barbara, CA west of the I5 Corridor

Describe why you are interested in serving on this Board or Commission: \_\_\_\_\_

I think I would bring a unique set of skills to the group with a strong accounting and technical background. My last 12 years of my career I built a team from 20 to 250 fiber design and construction people building fiber and supporting the broadband initiatives. Now that I am retired I would like to get involved in the community

\*Please feel free to submit any additional documentation (resumé, explanation of experience specifically related to this board/commission).

Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which does business with the City of Bellingham? YES  NO

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

8/1/2020  
 Today's Date

Milissa Miller  
 Signature of Applicant



Mayor Fleetwood,

I am writing this letter to express my interest to serve on the Broadband Advisory Workgroup. I am currently retired after working in Bellingham for the past 40 years in finance, IT, and telecommunications. I would bring a good deal of experience to the group and my interests are closely aligned with its mission.

I started working for KVOS TV in 1978 where I began as a receptionist, then quickly moved on to the accounting department where over the years I took on and learned all aspects of accounting. With that experience I served as acting Comptroller while my boss comptroller took a one-year leave.

I quickly became interested in computers when the first personal computer arrived at KVOS in 1980. I eventually took over running their 125-user computer network over the years. With broadcast video communications, local and regional news operations, satellite receiving, computer networking and telephony between our Bellingham and Vancouver offices and corporate headquarters, I quickly had to master and bring innovations to our coaxial, microwave fiber and satellite communications technologies.

After 22 years it was time for a change.

In 2000, I took a job as the VP of Operations for FiberCloud Internet Data Center. Under its founder and subsequent owner, WhidbeyTel, I led a team of technicians with expertise in internet routing, security, 99.999% uptime, and big pipe bandwidth. Together we not only survived the "dot bomb" era, we provided a robust, growing data center environment for not only startup tech companies, but local enterprises and the City of Bellingham itself. The data center opened my eyes of the need for more than a T1 line for our customers as they connected to their offices. It was then that Black Rock Cable began offering its new fiber network. Upon my suggestion, they pivoted to a commercial fiber leasing operation with its first customer, VECO Engineering, who utilized a private direct fiber connection from their building to the data center. The combination of the data center with its robust Internet and international fiber routes coupled with an unprecedented, growing dark fiber network brought network advances and vital Internet to banks, manufacturers, retailers, and governments.

In 2006 I was asked to join Black Rock Cable. We added to our success in building fiber for cities, counties, schools, cell carriers, tribes, and many businesses now reaching from Blaine to King County. The learning curve of permitting, financial costs, construction crews, and maintaining the fiber plant was fast and furious as there was a huge need for fiber infrastructure. When Black Rock sold to Wave Broadband in late 2012 I was asked to lead their Fiber Design and Construction group as an Executive Vice President. Wave's footprint grew to cover from Vancouver BC to Santa Barbara, CA. I developed a strategy to build productive teams quickly who would be able to build and maintain Wave's fiber plant at a record pace. And I built asset management and cost accounting systems that drew the praise of many industry analysts and financial backers. Within five years Wave was known across the country as building the most fiber for its size. My team grew from 20 to 250+ employees and we managed dozens of subcontractors. As a result, I have a deep understanding of all facets of fiber network operations from design, route planning, permitting, aerial and underground construction, documentation and maintenance.

Wave was sold in January 2018 to RCN to become the sixth largest cable company in the nation, and I retired in July of 2018.

Now, with a couple of years of retirement, I am ready to get involved in my community and feel that my 40 years of work experience could help guide interesting conversations and recommendations for a broadband infrastructure policy for the City of Bellingham.

Thank you for considering this application,

Milissa 



Office of the Mayor  
 City Hall, 210 Lottie Street  
 Bellingham, WA 98225  
 Phone (360) 778-8100 Fax (360) 778-8101

**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO  
 CITY OF BELLINGHAM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**  
*(Please Type or Print Clearly)*

Candidates must presently live within Bellingham City limits and have done so for at least one year, unless otherwise specified. Elected City officials, city officers and employees, and residents having conflicts of interest are ineligible for appointments to City advisory boards. Complete, sign and return this application to the Mayor's Office, City Hall, 210 Lottie Street, Bellingham, WA 98225.

Note: As a candidate to a public board or commission, this information may be made available to the public.

I am interested in serving on the: Broadband Advisory Group  
 (Board / Commission)

Name: Spencer W Moore

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: 98225

Street Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a resident of the City of Bellingham (live within the city limits)? YES  NO

How long have you lived in Bellingham? 2016 to present

Neighborhood in which you reside York

Current Occupation: Appliance Technician

OR - If retired, former occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Education: College of DuPage Electrical Technician

Professional / Community Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Qualifications Related to Position: I was a network engineer designing 802.11 wireless networks in OSI layers 1-3, with fiber optic backbones. I specialized in industrial and commercial surveying, design, and construction.

Describe why you are interested in serving on this Board or Commission: I want to provide what technical expertise I have to the city in order to advance internet access to vulnerable people based on the assumption that internet access is the gateway to the economy, education, and in our present time, social contact. To help those without.

\*Please feel free to submit any additional documentation (resumé, explanation of experience specifically related to this board/commission).

Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which does business with the City of Bellingham? YES  NO

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

9/10/2020  
 Today's Date

Spencer W Moore  
 Signature of Applicant

# SPENCER MOORE

BELLINGHAM, WA 98225

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Self-Motivated and detail oriented technical professional with 5+ years of customer service-oriented experience in technical fields. While exiting my field of expertise in order to re-enter academia, I work well as an individual, team member, or team leader. I have always strive to help customers at every technical level understand how to operate everything from a pinball machine to a multi-campus fiber-optic WAN network. Focusing on the customer's experience be it in person, over the phone or email is paramount.

## SKILLS

- Business analysis
- Hardware and software diagnostics
- Troubleshooting
- Project management
- Customer service
- Detail-oriented

## WORK HISTORY

APRIL 2017-DECEMBER 2019

**Wireless Network Engineer** | Technology Recovery Group | Bellingham, United States

National solo travel leading, designing, constructing, and implementing WAN networks involving fiber-optic termination and splicing, access point configuration, Main Distribution Frame build-outs, server build-outs, heavy equipment operation, cabling, managing contractors, helping customers integrate new technology into existing business models, interacting with all user levels from CFO to warehouse associate in order to assure compliance with international 802.11 standards of excellence.

MARCH 2015-AUGUST 2016

**Electronics Repair Technician** | Western Automatic Music | Chicago, IL

On Call remote servicing of circuit boards, mechanical games, jukeboxes and entertainment equipment, driving company vehicles to and from customer locations. Maintaining warehouse inventory, tools and equipment. Cash audits and cash handling. Lifting 65lb+ overhead. Servicing customers in high pressure environments during peak business hours. Working alone and part of a team.

## EDUCATION

**Some College (No Degree):** Social Sciences

Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale, IL

2014

**Certificate:** Low Voltage Electronics

College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, IL

**Lewis, Tracy L.**

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**From:** Spencer Moore  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 10, 2020 4:17 PM  
**To:** Lewis, Tracy L.  
**Cc:** Johnston, Eric C.  
**Subject:** Application to the Broadband Advisory Group  
**Attachments:** Spencer W Moore, application for broadband advisory group.pdf;  
SPENCER\_MOORE\_Resume.pdf

Good afternoon,

My name is Spencer Moore, and I am interested in joining the Broadband advisory group that the city council is putting together. I spoke to Eric Johnston earlier this week, and after our conversation I was very motivated to apply to the board.

I have around two years of network engineering experience designing and constructing wired and wireless networks using fiber optic cable as a backbone in these networks. With a familiarity of the "real world" implementation of networks in a variety of different environments I feel like I have some technical expertise to offer to the city. To avoid a list of credentials, I've attached a copy of my resume along with the application. For any clarification or additional details and references, please do not hesitate to contact me either by email or phone, which is listed below.

I look forward to hearing from you, and to work with a group of people determined to find the right policy regarding broadband for Bellingham.

**Spencer W Moore**



Office of the Mayor  
 City Hall, 210 Lottie Street  
 Bellingham, WA 98225  
 Phone (360) 778-8100 Fax (360) 778-8101

RECEIVED

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO  
 CITY OF BELLINGHAM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS  
 (Please Type or Print Clearly)

EXECUTIVE  
 DEPARTMENT

Candidates must presently live within Bellingham City limits and have done so for at least one year, unless otherwise specified. Elected City officials, city officers and employees, and residents having conflicts of interest are ineligible for appointments to City advisory boards. Complete, sign and return this application to the Mayor's Office, City Hall, 210 Lottie Street, Bellingham, WA 98225.

Note: As a candidate to a public board or commission, this information may be made available to the public.

I am interested in serving on the: Local Board of Advisors Group  
 (Board & Commission)

Name: Steven Spitzer

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: 98229

Street Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: Home: N/A Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: N/A

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a resident of the City of Bellingham (live within the city limits)? YES  NO

How long have you lived in Bellingham? 18 years

Neighborhood in which you reside Samish

Current Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

OR - If retired, former occupation: Technical Director - Western Marine Electronics Assoc.

Education: 4 year university (MBA)

Professional / Community Activities: Assoc. of Technical

Qualifications Related to Position: see cv attached

Describe why you are interested in serving on this Board or Commission: I am very interested

to help build the community and I would like to see

new things done & I would like to see the success of the city for everyone

Please feel free to submit any additional documentation (resumé, explanation of experience specifically related to this board/commission).

Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which does business with the City of Bellingham? YES  NO

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

9/18/20  
 Today's Date

Steven Spitzer  
 Signature of Applicant

# STEVE SPITZER

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## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

### **National Marine Electronics Association – TECHNICAL DIRECTOR 2003 - 2020 (Retired)**

Responsible for all technical endeavors of NMEA including all marine electronic standards activities and industry professional development programs

- Collaborated with 17 national and international engineering teams to develop, maintain and publish the NMEA Marine Electronic Interface Standards
- Directed effort to create new NMEA International Interface Standard. NMEA OneNet
- Established and led multi volunteer expert working groups for specific standards activities
- Created technical training materials and educational seminars for industry professionals
- Authored bi-monthly technical articles in the Marine Electronics Journal

### **Horizon Sales and Marketing, LLC – OWNER/ PRESIDENT 2000 - 2003**

Owner of sales and marketing company focused on system oriented marine-electronic technology products

- Developed strategic business plans for new products and new markets for emerging maritime organizations
- Authored and published multi-media training materials for markets

### **Heart Interface – VICE PRESIDENT 1992 – 2000**

Manufacturer of power conversion products and battery instrumentation monitors to multiple markets. Company grew from \$9 million to \$25 million.

- Developed and introduced new products
- Formulated international strategic alliances
- Cultivated emerging market opportunities

### **Washington State Non Profit Organizations – MANAGING DIRECTOR 1991 - 1995**

Large non-profits; Washington State Games, Washington Baseball Classic, Seafair, focusing on cultural diversity awareness and special events.

- Directed all the activities of the 30 cultural community events involving more than 1000 volunteers.
- Produced special events training workshops and developed community training materials.
- Cultivated partnerships with state elected officials and business community

### **ICOM America – MANAGER 1981-1991**

Exclusive North American distributor of Japanese manufactured two-way communication products to multiple markets. Company grew from \$3 million to \$38 million

- Identified new international markets, established two new divisions
- Developed new products
- Project Manager for international corporate headquarters.

## EDUCATION

MBA - City University

BA - Rider University

## **STANDARD ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES**

**Global Marine Distress Safety System - Task Force Member**  
**Bluetooth Special Interest Group - Global Navigation Satellite Systems**  
**International Electrotechnical Commission - Working Group 6, 15, 17**  
**International Standard Organization, TC 80 Working Group 10, 14**  
**Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Service - Member, Board of Directors**  
**Society of Automotive Engineers - J1939 Working Group**

## **PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**British Marine Electronics and Electrical Association – Yearly Speaker**  
**Canadian Institute of Marine Engineering - Presenter**  
**Electronic Telecommunications Research Institute- KeyNote Speaker - Lecturer**  
**E-Nav Conference – Seattle- Presenter**  
**European Standards Technical Institute Forum – Speaker – “Digital Interface for E-Navigation”**  
**ISO International Forum on Smart Shipping and Smart Ships - Presenter**  
**Korean Maritime and Ocean University - Guest Lecturer/Lectures**  
**Marine Electronics Journal – Bi-Monthly Articles**

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

**Bellevue Parks and Recreation – Vice Chair**  
**Boys and Girls Club – President**  
**Bellingham Rotary International – Member**  
**Beth Israel Synagogue - Treasurer**





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*(Please Type or Print Clearly)*

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**Note:** As a candidate to a public board or commission, this information may be made available to the public.

I am interested in serving on the: Broadband Advisory Workgroup  
 (Board / Commission)

Name: Russell Baird "RB" Tewksbury

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_, Bellingham, WA \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: 98225

Street Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a resident of the City of Bellingham (live within the city limits)? YES  NO

How long have you lived in Bellingham? 3 years

Neighborhood in which you reside Columbia

Current Occupation: Business Owner (Legal Technology Management & Marketing) @ MarketWorks  
Contributor @ Law Technology Today (American Bar Association)

OR - If retired, former occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Education: University of South Florida - Bachelor of Science, Business Administration & Management, Finance

Professional / Community Activities: I write about the Internet and computer technology for many Bar Associations. I've served on Boards of several non-profits and was President of a large condo association in Florida. I was a volunteer member of Indian River County Sheriff's Office CSU Marine Unit for nearly 5 years. Professional Mentor at Florida State University since 2009.

Qualifications Related to Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
26 years as an Internet technology consultant (see attached resume).

Describe why you are interested in serving on this Board or Commission: Bellingham is a wonderful city. I want to support and help strengthen our community. I believe safe, affordable and reliable Internet access is crucial for City of Bellingham residents and visitors alike.

\*Please feel free to submit any additional documentation (resumé, explanation of experience specifically related to this board/commission).

Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in, or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency which does business with the City of Bellingham? YES  NO

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

September 8, 2020  
 Today's Date

Russell Baird  
 Signature of Applicant

# Russell Baird "RB" Tewksbury

Legal Marketing Rainmaker | Legal Tech Consultant | Author  
PWA | Domain Names | New gTLDs | Google Ads Management

Bellingham, WA

## EXPERIENCE

**MarketWorks LLC, Bellingham, WA — Founder, President**  
Legal Marketing, Legal Technology Management. Feb 1994 - Present

**Indian River County Sheriff's Office — CSU Marine Unit**  
Vero Beach, FL. October 2012 - June 2017

**Gore/Lieberman 2000, Nashville, TN — Executive Producer**  
& Videographer for US Senator Joseph Lieberman. July 2000 - Dec 2000

**United States Coast Guard, USA — USCG Master Captain**  
U.S. Merchant Marine Officer. January 1987 - Present

## PUBLISHED

**American Bar Association — Contributor**  
Law Technology Today. October 2018 - Present

**Colorado Bar Association — Contributor**  
The Colorado Lawyer. April 2019 - Present

**Marin County Bar Association — Contributor**  
The Marin Lawyer. January 2019 - Present

**San Mateo County Bar Association — Contributor**  
Here-Say Newsletter. January 2019 - Present

**Dade County Bar Association — Contributor**  
The DCBA Bulletin. January 2019 - Present

**Richmond County Bar Association — Contributor**  
TheRCBA Journal. March 2019 - Present

**King County Bar Association — Contributor**  
The Bar Bulletin. March 2019 - Present

## EDUCATION

**University of South Florida — Bachelor of Science**  
Business Administration and Management, Finance  
Tampa, FL. 1983 - 1986

**Florida State University**  
Business Administration and Management, Finance  
Tallahassee, FL. 1983 - 1984

## SOCIAL

[linkedin.com/in/rbtewksbury](https://www.linkedin.com/in/rbtewksbury)

[twitter.com/RBTewksbury](https://twitter.com/RBTewksbury)

[pinterest.com/tewksbury](https://www.pinterest.com/tewksbury)

[github.com/tewksbury](https://github.com/tewksbury)

[imdb.me/tewksbury](https://www.imdb.me/tewksbury)

## SKILLS

Advertising & Marketing

Brand/Business Development

Cybersecurity Administration

Domain Names, New gTLDs

Google Ads Management

Mobile Web Apps & PWAs

Website Administration

Reputation Management

Search Engine Marketing

Technical Project Manager

## GOOGLE

### CERTIFICATIONS

Advertising Fundamentals

AdWords Advanced Search

AdWords Advanced Display

AdWords Mobile Advertising

Video Advertising Advanced

Google Marketing Platform

## LEADERSHIP / VOLUNTEER

- Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation *Leadership Florida Class XXI*, 2003 - Present
- Florida State University College of Business *ProfessioNole Mentorship Program*, 2009 - Present
- Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation *World Class Schools Faculty* member, 2001 - 2004
- University of South Florida College of Business *Guest Lecturer*
- In 1998 created and was *Executive Producer & Co-host* for a series of live video webcast events titled Eye of the Storm, a web and satellite based educational program about hurricanes
- In May 1995 co-produced one of the first live-stream events with a head of state. Webcast -over Mbone- was of Queen Silvia of Sweden's visit to Moffit Children's Cancer Center in Tampa, FL
- In 1994 created and managed a project -in association with Tampa Bay Online (TBO), Prodigy Online Service & Moffit Children's Cancer Center- to help home-bound children recovering from cancer treatment stay in school and keep in touch with classmates and teachers via email and chat

## ORGANIZATIONS

The Internet Society  
1995 - Present

Member, ISOC Washington, D.C. & San Francisco Bay Area Chapters, ISOC Cybersecurity SIG, Blockchain SIG & Internet of Things (IoT) SIG

## HONORS / AWARDS

Marquis' Who's Who In America — 1999 - Present

Marquis' Who's Who In The World — 2000 - Present

Marquis' Who's Who In Finance and Industry — 2000

Marquis' Who's Who In the Media and Communications — 1st Edition, 1998

