

**AUSTIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 8, 2003 – 7:30 P.M.
MUNICIPAL BUILDING – 124 W. EIGHTH STREET – ROOM 304
<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/telcommission/>**

MINUTES

1. Call to order

Commissioner Vice Chair Leslie Pool called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Commissioners in attendance were Wendell Ramsey, Leslie Pool, Deborah Hill, Adrian Pineda, Chip Rosenthal and Jesus Sifuentes. Commissioner Matthew Curtis was absent. City of Austin staff in attendance was Jane Reina and Sheena Harden.

2. Adoption of agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda was made by Commissioner Hill; seconded by Commissioner Pineda. Vote 5-0. (Commissioner Ramsey arrived after item 3) (Commissioner Curtis absent).

3. Citizen communications (3 minutes to speak)

No one signed up for citizen communications.

4. Approval of minutes for the October 16, 2002 regular meeting and the December 11, 2002 retreat.

After noting a correction to the minutes of the December 11, 2002 retreat, item 4.-3. to place a comma between bandwidth and access on the draft 2003 Commission workplan by Commissioner Rosenthal, a motion to approve the minutes from the October 16, 2002 regular meeting and the December 11, 2002 retreat was made by Commissioner Pineda; seconded by Commissioner Hill. Vote 6-0. (Commissioner Curtis absent)

5. Officer's report.

Jim Butler will be moderating 2 panels at SXSW 2003. They will both be at the Austin Convention Center.

The first is about the digital gaming industry. It is scheduled for 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 11th. The speakers are Rich Vogel, who heads up the local office of Sony Online Entertainment and Warren Spector of Ion Storm. Rich's team is currently working on a Star Wars game, and Rich will be talking about the future of online gaming. Warren will speak about the future of console gaming. Both speakers will also discuss what happened at the Game Developers Conference, a national gaming conference that

will have just concluded prior to SXSW. They will both also discuss the importance of the gaming industry to Austin.

The second panel is about how regions create economic development and cultural development by supporting and enhancing creative industries, including entertainment, art, and technology. It is scheduled for 3:30 – 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11th. The speakers will be Richard Florida, Hans Veldhuizen, and Scott Aiges. Richard is a professor at Carnegie Mellon specializing in regional economic development. He has recently completed a book entitled "The Rise of the Creative Class." That book discusses how regions can flourish by supporting creativity. Hans Veldhuizen is a technology entrepreneur in Amsterdam who has founded the Amsterdam New Media Association and the Interactive Professionals Association Netherlands. He will be discussing how Amsterdam and the Netherlands support creativity there, specifically for new media and interactive industries. Scott Aiges works for the Mayor of New Orleans. He works to develop and enhance the music community of New Orleans, and he will discuss the specifics of what he does and what others are doing in the region to support creativity there.

All Telecommunications Commission members are eligible to receive a SXSW Interactive badge as part of the City's community scholarship program with SXSW Interactive, which runs from March 7th - 11th in 2003. This badge will allow the badge holder to attend all panels, events, and activities related to SXSW Interactive. Jim Butler will register each Commission member, and then SXSW will contact them via email with a confirmation. The badges will be able to be picked up at the Austin Convention Center with a photo ID and the confirmation email. Specific details will be in the confirmation email that will come from SXSW. For details about SXSW Interactive and SXSW in general, go to <http://www.sxsw.com>.

The Commission was also reminded that the Quarterly Public Forum on Cable Television Service is schedule for the next Council Committee for Telecommunications Infrastructures, Wednesday, January 22, 2003, 3:00 p.m., City Hall located at 124 W. 8th Street, Room 304. Each speak has 5 minutes to speak. Time Warner Cable and Grande Communications, who have cable franchises with the City of Austin, will be there to address the speaker's complaints and/or concerns.

6. Discussion and possible action of the following:
 - a. Approval of the Austin Telecommunications Commission (ATC) Workplan FY 2002-03.

Motion to adopt the Austin Telecommunications Commission Workplan for FY 2002-03, after a correction to item 3 to place a comma between bandwidth and access, was made by Commissioner Pool; seconded by Commissioner Hill. Vote 6-0. (Commissioner Curtis was absent)

The adopted workplan reads:

1. Continue to enhance and increase our multimedia development efforts by working to identify workforce and education partnerships and also working to expand economic development resources. Support partnership building efforts between the public and private sectors in the industry areas of technology, entertainment, broadband, and digital entertainment.
 - a. Continue to help local interactive, music, film and digital entertainment companies and community media and community technology groups by increasing their visibility at major events. Continue to work with events that build new private and public sector partners that will enhance the economic and community impact on Austin.
 - b. Resource mapping – work with community groups and city staff.
 - c. Monitor technology-based economic development initiatives: request period updates from City staff and make recommendations to Council.
 2. Budget recommendations for FY 2002-03
 - a. Receive status reports on projects funded.
 - b. Share information received with others.
 3. Ensure that City of Austin planning includes planning for bandwidth, access and telecommunications services for all of Austin. Explore new opportunities arising from streaming media and open spectrum wireless technology.
 4. Continue efforts to enhance community networks and community technology centers. Assess existing GTOPs program and review ways to sustain.
 5. Develop networking relationships with other boards/commissions and groups, city-wide and statewide.
- b. Review of ATC Workplan FY 2001-02.

FY 02 workplan item 1.

Continue to enhance and increase our multimedia development efforts by working to identify workforce and education partnerships and also working to expand economic development resources. Support partnership building efforts between the public and private sectors in the industry areas of technology, entertainment, broadband, and digital entertainment.

- a. Continue to help local interactive, music, film and digital entertainment companies and community media and community technology groups by

- increasing their visibility at major events such as SXSW. Continue to work with events like SXSW by building new private and public sector partners for the events that will enhance their economic and community impact for Austin.
- b. Resource mapping – work with community groups and city staff
 - c. Monitor technology-based economic development initiatives: request period updates from City staff and make recommendations to Council

The Commission has continued to try to enhance the activities that they have done with South by Southwest as far as visibility, planning and recommendations.

FY 02 workplan item 2.

Access Channel allocation process recommendation

- a. Review results from public hearings held in 1999-00
- b. Determine feasibility of recommending additional channels
- c. Resolve pending application from Round Rock Independent School District

The Commission has done as much as they could do toward the channel allocation process. This item has been pulled from the 03 workplan.

FY 02 workplan item 3.

Budget recommendations for FY 2002-03

- a. Receive status reports on projects funded (GTOPs and CTTC)
- b. Share information received with others

FY 02 workplan item 4.

Develop specific plans for how TARA can best help the City's E-government effort by increasing access to computers, the internet, kiosks, etc. at public facilities throughout the city. Also work with all of those operating these sites to find ways to let those near the sites know about the services provided by the City's E-government initiative. Contact Chairs of ZAP and Planning to identify areas the two overlap and the Telecommunications Commission support.

FY 02 workplan item 5.

Ensure that City of Austin planning includes planning for bandwidth and telecommunications services for all of Austin. This planning would not only be critical in daily planning for making Austin the most livable city anywhere, but smart planning such as this could also be critical for economic development and community development.

FY 02 workplan item 6.

Continue efforts to enhance community networks and community technology centers. Work to increase private and public sector partnerships for GTOPs recipients and other community media and community technology groups. Develop a sustainable community

media and community technology plan. Work to enhance the success of the June CTCNET National Conference.

The Commission has continued to provide support for GTOPs as well as continued visibility with the Community Technology Training Center process with Travis and Reagan High School, as well as additional planning.

FY 02 workplan item 7.

Develop networking relationships with other boards/commissions and groups, city-wide and statewide

- a. Downtown Commission
- b. Music Commission
- c. Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau Film Liaison
- d. Chambers of Commerce (create a public relationship)
- e. Texas Board and Commissions via Texas Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (TATOA)

The Commission has maintained a working relationship with the Technology Centers and regularly had feed back and input from the Downtown Commission and the Music Commission via Commission Matt Curtis' regular attendance to these other Commission meetings.

The Commission had presentations from the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau Film Liaison, Chamber of Commerce, and a Neighborhood Associations regarding the redevelopment of Robert Mueller Airport.

- c. GTOPs Update (Harden).

Sheena Harden, Research Analyst with the Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs, reported that the 2003 applications for the review board are due January 31st. She will place an item for action on the February agenda to vote on the review board and will send copies of the applications to the Commission prior to the meeting for the Commissioner's review. February 14th is the due date for the Grant applications.

She stated that from the GTOPs 2002, Cine Las Americas has bought a new computer with an AVID system on it. They will be starting this semester teaching some classes to high school student on how to use this new equipment.

She stated that you can find GTOPs 2001 and 2002 awardees and all the information on how to apply for the grant and the review board at www.ctiaustin.org/gtops. This website is also linked from the ATC website.

7. Update reports on networking relationships with other boards/commissions and groups, city-wide and ATC information items.

Commissioner Ramsey stated that as our City is doing a number of things with different boards and commissions they have the opportunities to interact and co-sponsor projects with other commissions. This would be the type of item that the commission would work on as well as our Community Technology Center activities.

Commissioner Hill requested that staff follow-up on a committee that met January 7th regarding Creative Industries.

Commissioner Ramsey stated the Commission's web address, www.ci.austin.tx.us/telcommission, for channel 6 to post on the televised screen. He stated that at this site you can find the Commission initiatives, recommendations, agenda items and other related links. He stated that the Commission welcomes the public's visitation to the site as well as additional questions and input on items the Commission is working on.

8. Council Committee for Telecommunications Infrastructure report. (Ramsey)

Commissioner Ramsey stated that at the last meeting the of the Infrastructure Committee Commissioner Pool gave her outgoing report for her term as Chair.

9. Future agenda items

Commissioner Ramsey stated he would like to schedule some presentations by speakers in key areas of High Tech to give the citizens additional view points on some of the tasks and items that the Commission are working on. He requested that if the Commission has any recommendations for someone to provide a 10 to 15 minute presentation on subjects like Wireless & Streaming Technology they could schedule one presentation per meeting. (workplan item 1)

For action – regular meeting scheduled for February 12, 2003.
- Vote on 2003 GTOPs review committee

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.