

**AUSTIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 8, 2003
<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/telcommission/>**

MINUTES

1. Call to order

Commissioner Chair Wendell Ramsey called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
Commissioners in attendance were Wendell Ramsey, Chip Rosenthal, Chad Williams, Jesus Sifuentes and Deborah Hill
Commissioners absent were Leslie Pool.
Commissioner Adrian Pineda resigned before the meeting.
City of Austin staff in attendance was Jane Reina and Sheena Harden.

2. Adoption of agenda

The Commission adopted agenda as written.

3. Citizen communications (3 minutes to speak)

Rachel Muir, Director of Girlstart, spoke of their many programs and how GTOPs funding help them. She stated that she believes that GTOPs was created for the opportunities for people to have hands on learning in media and technology.

4. Approval of minutes for the July 9, 2003 regular meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Commissioner Rosenthal; seconded by Commissioner Sifuentes. Vote 5-0. (Commissioner Pool absent)

5. Officer's report.

The approved budget for 2003-04 includes: \$617,500 for Austin Community Access Center (ACAC), \$90,000 for GTOPs funding, a 10% reduction, \$241,294 for Capital Area Training Foundation and \$150,000 for Austin Music Network

This was the final 2-year extension of the ACAC's contract. At the end of this contract term (October 2004), the City will go out for Request for Proposal (RFP).

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: HB 3325 - In an ongoing effort to extend to rural communities the same benefits of the telecommunications revolution as enjoyed by major metropolitan areas, this bill allows the creation of "community telecommunication alliances." These alliances are intended to help spur economic development and assess the telecommunication service needs of rural Texas. They are specifically prohibited from providing or sharing telecommunications services to members of the alliance.

6. Discussion and possible action of the following:

a. Speakers/Topics for Upcoming Commission meetings. (Ramsey) (workplan item 5)

Commissioner Ramsey approached Jim Butler about make a presentation to the Commission at a future meeting regarding his role in the Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Department.

A tour of Austin Community Access Center (ACAC) along with the Austin Free-Net (AFN) Lab at the DeWitty Center was suggested by staff. It was also suggested that the Commission hold one of their future meeting at that location.

Commission Hill suggested considering hold a meeting at the ACAC studio at the Carver Branch Library or the Austin Community College studio at the Pinnacle Building.

Commissioner Ramsey stated that an action item would be posted for the November regular meeting to identify a topic or speaker for the January meeting.

Pete Collins with the City of Austin Combined Transportation and Emergency Communications Center has offered to give the Commission a tour for the facilities on Oct 14th from 10:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.

b. Review Austin Telecommunications Commission By-laws.

The proposed changed to the By-laws are that the Commission provide minutes of their meetings which includes taking attendance at the meetings, noting who provided motions and vote on the actions. An audio or video of the meeting will be provided to write the minutes.

Commissioner Ramsey asked the Commission if they feel that as a body could they sustain another officer position with these duties.

Commissioner Hill stated that she feels that the Commission could not sustain another officer considering the attendance.

Commissioner Williams stated that he would take on this duty on a trial basis.

After a brief discussion the Commission tabled this item.

c. GTOPs Selection Process Task Force update (workplan 4) (Williams)

Commission Williams gave a power point presentation that showed the proposed changes to the GTOPs application

d. Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs) 2003 update. (workplan item 4) (Sheena Harden)

GTOPs 2002 is getting close to closing out. Everyone is on board for 2003 with the exception on one organizations insurance information. Girlstart is almost finished for 2003 since their entire program was during the summer.

7. Update reports on networking relationships with other boards/commissions and groups, city-wide and ATC information items. (workplan item 5)

Commissioner Ramsey reported that AFN was recognized by the Chronicle last week.

October 25th through October 30th is the anniversary of ACAC.

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

Commissioner Ramsey's report to the Council Committee included the Commission's efforts to strengthen their process on how the applicants are chosen for the Grants for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs)

He also reported that he represented the City of Austin at the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) 2003 annual conference in Denver, Colorado.

9. Future agenda items

For action – regular meeting scheduled for November 12, 2003.

10. Adjournment

8: 47 p.m.