

**AUSTIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 13, 2004  
<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/telcommission/>**

**MINUTES**

1. Call to order.

Commission Vice Chair Chad Williams called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.  
Commissioners in attendance were Chad Williams, Chip Rosenthal, Deborah Hill and Jim Howerton.  
Commissioners absent were Wendell Ramsey and John Green  
Staff in attendance was Rondella Hawkins and Jane Reina

2. Adoption of agenda.

**Motion to adopt the agenda with items 6 a & b tabled was made by Commissioner Rosenthal; seconded by Commissioner Hill. Vote 4-0. (Commissioners Ramsey and Green absent)**

3. Citizen communications. (3 minutes to speak)

There were no citizens signed up to speak for citizen communications.

4. Approval of minutes

- a. August 11, 2004 Regular meeting of the Austin Telecommunications Commission.
- b. September 8, 2004 Joint meeting of the Austin Telecommunications Commission and Austin Music Commission.
- c. September 13, 2004 Joint meeting of the Austin Telecommunications Commission and the Austin Music Commission.
- d. October 1, 2004 Special Called meeting of the Austin Telecommunications Commission.

**Motion to adopt the August 11, 2004 Regular meeting of the Austin Telecommunications Commission, the September 8, 2004 Joint meeting of the Austin Telecommunications Commission and Austin Music Commission, the September 13, 2004 Joint meeting of the Austin Telecommunications Commission and the Austin Music Commission and the October 1, 2004 Special Called meeting of the Austin Telecommunications Commission as written was made by Commissioner Hill; seconded by Commissioner Rosenthal. Vote 4-0. (Commissioners Ramsey and Green absent)**

5. Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs Office Report.

Rondella Hawkins, Manager, Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs reported that she has requested that Sheena Harden, prepare an annual GTOPs report that includes the impact of the programs being funded by this grant.

This year's budget includes \$90,000 for GTOPs funding and \$617,500 for Austin Community Access Center (ACAC)

Ms. Hawkins also reported she attend the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) annual conference. The conference included the deployment and regulation of Internet enabled services and voice over Internet. The industry is looking at deploying cable TV over Internet and there is a lot of regulatory uncertainty. The mission was that cities need to be participating at the federal level and the City of Austin is participating through NATOA. We need to make sure that local government is not preempted out of this process.

The Supreme Court will hear the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit's decision to classify cable modem services as partly a telecommunications service and partly an information service.

The NATOA conference also included sessions on broadband over power line and government programming.

Ms. Hawkins also reported on the Austin Community Access Center (ACAC) interim management agreement of the Austin Music Network (AMN). The interim agreement is through January 31, 2005 with 2 one-month extensions if needed. The City is in the process of vacating the AMN facility at Robert Mueller by September 22, 2004. The master control equipment is being moved to ACAC. The on air library (archives) that AMN uses will be housed close to ACAC.

Commissioner Rosenthal would like for this Commission to explore avenues for archiving access programming. This would include the archiving of Channel 6 and their capability to archive with their move to the new city hall. Including:

How will AMN's archives be handled under ACAC?

Does ACAC have the facilities to store the archives?

Are all the AMN archives in digital format?

Will the new city hall provide digital archiving of all taped meetings?

Ms. Hawkins stated that the master archives are housed at the History Center with an archivist.

At this time Channel 15 in on the air by automation. The Austin Music Partner's (AMP) contract with the City was executed by both parties on October 1<sup>st</sup> with AMP taking over channel 15 February 1, 2005.

6. Discussion and possible action of the following:

- a. Austin Telecommunications Commission name change.

This item was postponed.

- b. Policy recommendations on ways the City of Austin can support the development of the wireless industry. (workplan item 3)

This item was postponed.

- c. 2005 Request for Proposals (RFP) for public access television management services.

Ms. Hawkins explained that September 30, 2005 the ACAC contract to manage the public access studios expires and prior to that time the City wants to issue a request for proposals. This item is for the Commission to look at the scope of work for that RFP for the management of the channels,

resources, equipment and the studios. It was recommended that the Commission hold some public hearing to gather input from the public on public access in Austin.

Staff will obtain RFP's for public access TV management services from other cities and will check with the Alliance for Community Media.

The Commission would like a worksession with staff to discuss changes to the scope of work for the RFP. Staff recommended December for the worksession.

Ms. Hawkins will put together a timeline for the RFP before scheduling a worksession.

Commissioner Hill would like to see some language on archiving in the scope.

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

Commissioner Rosenthal stated that the Commission had a tour of IC2's media lab. IC2 is working with interactive media with a focus on learning. The Commission was very impressed. The kids today are a generation who learn and perform differently just through the use of this technology. In IC2's work they identified a digital divide so the Commission needs to better understand what they as a Commission can do.

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

No report was given.

9. Future agenda items for the Austin Telecommunications Commission Retreat scheduled for November 10, 2004.

Items for retreat:

- Review 2003-04 workplan
- Develop 2004-05 workplan
- ATC name change
- Wireless recommendation to Council Committee

Speakers/Topics. (Ramsey) (workplan item 5)

- Commissioner Howerton will request a speaker regarding the City of Austin's efforts toward broadband over electric lines and WyMax.
- Commissioner Hill would like an update on the use of Seaholm Power Plant. (EGRD)
- Request Tim Hamblin with the History Center to speak on archiving.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.