

AUSTIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 11, 2006
<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/telcommission/>

MINUTES

1. Call to order.

Commission Chair Chad Williams called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. Commissioners in attendance were Chad Williams, Wendell Ramsey, Deborah Hill, Jim Howerton, John Green and Stephen Martin. Commissioner Chip Rosenthal was given an excused absence. Staff in attendance was Rondella Hawkins, Sheena Harden and Jane Reina.

2. Adoption of agenda.

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

3. General citizen communications. (3 minutes to speak)

There were no citizens signed up to speak.

4. Approval of minutes from the December 14, 2005 Commission regular meeting.

Motion to adopt the minutes from the December 14, 2005 Commission regular meeting was made by Commissioner Ramsey; seconded by Commissioner Howerton. Vote 4-0. (Commissioner Rosenthal absent. Commissioners Hill and Green arrived after this item.)

5. Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs (TARA) Office Report.

Rondella Hawkins, Manager of TARA, reported that Congress has been on recess so there has been very little movement on the National level regarding the nation video franchising legislation.

Sheena Harden, Program Coordinator for TARA reported that the 2004 GTOPs annual report was almost complete. For the \$90,000 grant funds provided in 2004 the awardees were able to raise \$192,707. of matching funds which includes 2,633 volunteer hours, \$74,764 in-kind donations and \$86,342. in cash contributions. Over 5,200 individuals were served, at least 263 computers were purchased and/or refurbished and distributed to individuals, families or businesses and at least 2,000 hours of technology training were provided.

The GTOPs 2006 deadline for applications is January 20, 2006 at 4:45 p.m. For more information on the GTOPs programs you can visit www.ctiaustin.org/GTOPS/applications or contact Sheena Harden at (512) 974-3510.

6. Discussion and possible action on:

- a. Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs) 2006 Review Committee selection. (wp2)

Motion to appoint Kim Smith, Aruni Gunasegaram, Rodney Gibbs, Nathan C. Bybee, Lemuel Williams, Dipo Mosadomi as the 2006 GTOPs Review Committee was made by Commissioner Williams; seconded by Commissioner Howerton. Vote 6-0. (Commissioner Rosenthal absent)

- b. Update from the Task Force to modify the Austin Telecommunications Commission's (ATC) scope of work. (Rosenthal)

This item was tabled until the February regular Commission meeting.

- c. Resolution to modify the enabling ordinance of the ATC.

This item was tabled until the February regular Commission meeting.

- d. Name change of the ATC.

This item was tabled until the February regular Commission meeting.

- e. Update from the Task Force for Video Archiving. (Hill) (wp5)

Commissioner Hill stated that this committee had not met since the last Telecom Commission meeting therefore she had nothing to report. The next scheduled meeting of this task force is Friday, January 27, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Austin History Center.

- f. Report from Public Access Community Television (PACT). (wp3)

Linda Litowsky, Executive Director and Garry Wilkerson, General Manager of PACT gave the Commission a very detailed report on the management of the public access facilities. They also presented their Producers Orientation Video to the Commission. For information on PACT and the public access facilities you can call (512) 478-8600 or visit www.austinpact.org. The studios are located at 1143 Northwestern Avenue.

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

The Commission continues to work with the Music and Library Commission on the Task Force on Video Archiving.

8. Council Committee for Emerging Technology and Telecommunications report. (Williams)

Commissioner Williams stated that this committee had not met since the last Telecom Commission meeting therefore he had nothing to report.

9. Future agenda items for the Austin Telecommunications Commission next scheduled meeting for February 8, 2006.

- Update from the Task Force to modify the Austin Telecommunications Commission's scope of work. (Rosenthal)
- Resolution to modify the enabling ordinance of the ATC.
- Name change of the ATC.
- Update from the Task Force for Video Archiving. (Hill) (wp5)
- Update on Broadband Over Power Lines

Speakers/Topics.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.