



AUSTIN COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2008

The Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, June 11, 2008, 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas, City Hall, Room 1101.

1. **Call to order** – June 11, 2008 - 7:30 p.m.

Commission Chair Chip Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:42 p.m.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Chip Rosenthal, Chair

Wendell Ramsey

Chad Williams

Jim Howerton

Arthur Sampson

Lemuel Williams

Commission Members Absent:

John Green, Vice-Chair

Kedron Touvell

2. **Adoption of agenda.**

The agenda was adopted on a unanimous vote of the Commission.

3. **Citizen Communication: General**

Woody Roberts – Wanted to let the Commission know of the National Association of Broadcasters and Radio and Records Convention scheduled for June 17-19 in Austin.

Wayne Caswell - Teletruth.org a consumer watchdog group that has its roots in telecomm. The marketing on the DTV transition is failing to identify some of the potential problems. The message should state, get your converter box now so you have time to resolve any problems.

4. **Approval of minutes** – May 14, 2008 Commission regular meeting.

The minutes from the regular meeting of May 14, 2008 were approved on Commissioner Chad Williams' motion, Commissioner Lemuel Williams second on a 6-0-0 vote. (Commissioner John Green and Kedron Touvell absent)

5. Invited Presentations

- a. Update on South by Southwest Interactive (Hugh Forest) (wp6)

Hugh Forest, Event Director of South by Southwest Interactive Festival, reported to this Commission on last year's festival. At that time the wireless access was one of their biggest challenges. Now there is a significant improvement and he thanked the Commission for helping with this matter. Looks forward to brainstorming on more ways they can work with this Commission to continue to improve the festival. Seeing how much help the Commission was to a successful SXSW Interactive SXSW will work to accommodate the Commission with festival passes.

The 2008 festival had 185 panel sessions with 700 speakers and 150 exhibitors. This fest is growing to one of the world top technology events.

- b. Update on Cable Issues (Patty Gonzales) (wp9)

Patty Gonzales, Director, Government Affairs, Time Warner Cable, gave an update on the access capital equipment, access software, and access audio problems, Time Warner's role in the digital transition (www.timewarnercable.com/centraltx/customers/dtv/default.html), and the weather channel move to digital channels 355.

6. Staff Briefings

- a. Legislative and Regulatory Update. (wp7)

Registration is now open for the Texas Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors Annual Conference (TATOA) www.tatoa.org scheduled for August 7th & 8th in Fort Worth.

- b. Access facility and access capital equipment update. (wp1)

Update on the Public Access facilities located at 1143 Northwestern Blvd:

- Selected contractor for roof and exterior waterproofing. Planning to present this to City Council July 24, 2008.
- HVAC- the Inner exit door from the main studio has been removed and reframed, per fire inspector requirement. Final inspection took place 6/10/08, passed
- Equipment procurement – PACT is finalizing their design and specifications, which should be completed later this month.

7. Old Business

- a. Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs) report. (Sheena Harden) (wp2)

GTOPs' Day proclamation will be August 21, 2008, 5:30 pm City Council.

GTOPs task force decided to recommend a \$150,000 budget resolution, the same as last year. Grant limits will increase from \$20,000 to \$25,000. Would like a resolution for a staff intern to help with the marketing of GTOPs.

- b. Discussion and possible action on Time Warner Cable's move of Channel 44-weather radar to the digital tier. (wp9)

A resolution recommending Time Warner Cable reconsider its removal of News8 Radar Now weather radar service (channel 44) from the Non-digital Standard Service Tier and restore it back to a non-digital service tier was approved on Commissioner Wendell Ramsey's motion, Commissioner Chad Williams second on a 5-0-1 vote. Those Commissioners voting aye were Lemuel Williams, Arthur Sampson, Chip Rosenthal, Wendell Ramsey and Chad Williams. Commissioner Jim Howerton recused himself from this item due to a conflict of interest. (Commissioner John Green and Kedron Touvell absent)

- c. City Website Re-design Task Force update. (Rosenthal) (wp5)

Tabled

- d. DTV Community Forum Task Force update. (Touvell) (wp4,6)

This task force is continuing to work with digital sponsors to help provide more hands on workshop demo type scenarios at the forums. They are working toward scheduling three more forums for the months of August, September and November at City facilities.

8. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible action on 2008-2009 budget priorities resolutions. (wp8)

A resolution recommending the Austin City Council approve \$150,000 towards the Grant for Technology Opportunities (GTOPs) to be applied to approved applicants during the 2009 grants award period was approved on Commissioner Lemuel Williams' motion, Commissioner Wendell Ramsey second on a 6-0-0 vote. (Commissioner John Green and Kedron Touvell absent)

The motion to recommend the Austin City Council provide a \$3,000 increase to the 2009 budget for the department of Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs to fund the stipend for a Grant for Technology Opportunities Program intern FAILED on a 2-3-1 vote.

Those Commissioners voting aye were: Lemuel Williams, Chip Rosenthal. Those Commissioners voting nay were: Arthur Sampson, Wendell Ramsey and Jim Howerton.

Commissioner Chad Williams abstained from the vote. (Commissioner John Green and Kedron Touvell absent)

Commissioner Rosenthal will go to Council with the Commission's GTOPs funding resolution along with the Technology Ascertainment Study funding resolution passed earlier in the year.

- b. Discussion and possible action on Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission (ACT&TC) meeting schedule.

Motion to not have a regular meeting of the Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission for the month of July 2008 was approved on Commissioner Chad Williams' motion, Commissioner Lemuel Williams second on a 6-0-0 vote. (Commissioner John Green and Kedron Touvell absent)

- c. Update reports on networking relationships with other boards/commissions and groups, citywide and ACT&TC information items.

Commissioner Wendell Ramsey spoke at citizen's communication at the African American Resource Advisory Commission meeting June 4th on the subject of the DTV Transition Forums.

Commissioner Chip Rosenthal stated Free Press held their National Community Media Conference in June. PACT broadcast some of the sessions.

9. Discussion of agenda items for ACT&TC future meetings.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for August 13, 2008.

- PACT quarterly update. (wp1)
- GTOPs Task Force update. (wp2)
- DTV Community Forum Task Force update. (Touvell) (wp4,6)
- Presentation from Wayne Caswell with Teletruth.org on DTV Transition. (wp5,6)

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05

This is a summary of the activities at this meeting. To view the full meeting on DVD please visit the Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe Street, Austin, TX, Phone 974-7480.