



Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission

www.ci.austin.tx.us/telcommission

Regular Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

The Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, October 8, 2008, 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas, City Hall, Room 1101.

1. Call to order – October 8, 2008 – 7:35 p.m.

Commissioner Members in Attendance:

Chip Rosenthal
Wendell Ramsey
Kedron Touvell
Lemuel Williams
Jim Howerton
Arthur Sampson

Commissioner Members absent.

Randall Kolb

2. Adoption of agenda.

The agenda was adopted on a 5-0-0 vote of the Commission. (Commissioners Kolb absent. Commissioner Ramsey arrived later)

3. Citizen Communication: General

The first 10 speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

David Griffin – Equipment is missing at Public Access Community TV (PACT). PACT Management told Mr. Griffin they have sold some equipment to PACT Board members. A computer chip bought with City of Austin funds sent to PACT to be used for editing was sold to Mr. Griffin. How can a contractor sale City property?

Nick Papatonis – Upset about public access TV equipment being sold as property of the City of Austin. Management of PACT tried to get him kicked out of City Hall at a PACT event.

SueAnn Campbell – When problems are pointed out about PACT the PACT Board, City Telecom Office, City of Austin and the Telecom Commission have ignored them.

Gloria Morales – Feels she is being discriminated against at PACT because she was promised by PACT she would receive help with her access show due to disabilities and now PACT is not helping.

4. Approval of minutes – September 10, 2008 Commission regular meeting.

The minutes from the regular meeting of September 10, 2008 were approved on Commissioner Williams's motion, Commission Ramesey's second on a 4-0-2 vote. Commissioners voting aye were Chip Rosenthal, Wendell Ramsey, Kedron Touvell and Lemuel Williams. Commissioners abstaining were Sampson and Howerton. Commissioner Kolb absent.

5. Invited Presentations

a. Presentation on “Maker Faire”, a two-day event that celebrates “do it yourself” creativity. (Luke Iseman) (wp9)

Luke Iseman, with Maker Faire, stated that Maker Faire is a two-day, public gathering of tech DIY enthusiasts, teachers, students, tinkerers, hobbyists, inventors, science clubs, authors, manufacturers and retailers, print and broadcast media all coming together to share their projects. There will be scheduled performances, demonstrations, and an abundance of hands-on activities, all designed for an amazing and thrilling experience for those who attend. This year's event will be held at the Travis County Expo Center on Saturday, October 18, 2008 - 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday, October 19, 2008 - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information please go to www.makerfaire.com

b. Update on the City of Austin Web Site redesign project. (Linda Pounds-Adams)

David Matustik, Acting Director, City of Austin Public Information Office introduced Matt Esquivel, Co-Team Leader for the Web Site redesign project, who gave an update with a PowerPoint presentation on the City of Austin's Web Site redesign project call Austin Open Government Online Project.

6. Staff Briefings

a. Legislative, Regulatory and Policy Update. (wp7)

Rondella Hawkins, Manager, City of Austin, Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs gave an update on Senate Bill 5 Lawsuit; CTIA wireless siting preemption petition proceedings at the FCC and how the City of Austin filed opposition to it. She also reported on the National Broadband Policy; and PEG 2.0 “What does local programming look like in the Era of YouTube, Second Life and MySpace?”

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

Council has approved contract for the new roof for the public access studios. Pre-construction meeting with Building Serviced and the contractor will be early November. Contractor schedule set. Construction coordination meeting with PACT (aka ChannelAustin), Building Services and TARA soon after. Construction begins late November at the earliest; first phase likely to be waterproofing.

c. Briefing on carriage of KXAN Channel 36 on Time Warner Cable.

KXAN TV wants Time Warner Cable (TWC) to pay them programming fees for carriage on TWC's cable system. However, TWC does not want to pay programming fees because they claim that the programming costs would ultimately be passed onto their subscribers and result in a rate increase. Disputes over retransmission consent agreements fall outside the City of Austin's cable TV regulatory authority. You can find more information at www.ci.austin.tx.us/telecom.

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

Sheena Harden, City of Austin, Program Coordinator, presented the Commission with the 2007 GTOPs Annual Report.

October 24, 2008 at City Hall, Room 1029 the Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs Office will be hosting a **GTOPs pre-application meeting and grant seminar**. December 5, 2008 is the deadline for GTOPs applications. **For more info go to www.gtops.org or contact Sheena Harden at 974-3510.**

7. Old Business

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

A DTV forum was held September 18th with a relatively small turn out. The next forum is scheduled for November 17th at the Ruiz Library and a possible one in late January. For more info please refer to www.dtv2009.gov and www.dtv.gov or call 1-888-388-2009.

8. New Business

a. Discussion and possible action on revision to the Austin Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission (ACT&TC) Bylaws.

The motion to recommend the Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission reflect in their Bylaws the recommended changes set forth by the Audit & Finance Committee and their regular meetings start time be changed to 6:30 pm was approved on Commissioner Ramsey's motion, Commissioner Williams second on a 5-0-1 vote. Commissioners voting aye were: Jim Howerton, Lemuel Williams, Wendell Ramsey, Chip Rosenthal and Kedron Touvell. Commissioners voting nay were: Arthur Sampson. Commissioner Randall Kolb absent.

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

- November 8, 2008, Ruiz Library – “People Powered Media Un-Workshop”, focus on community media. For more information go to www.texascommunitymedia.org.
- October 17th & 18th, Palmer Auditorium – Austin Energy hosting Alt Car Conference and Expo. Anything you want to know about Hybrid or Electric vehicles. This is a fee event. For more information go to www.austinenergyaltcar.com

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

- The Commission scheduled their Workplan retreat for November 12, 2008 in place of their November regular meeting.
- Action item to approve the 2009 GTOPs review committee.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

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, Texas, Phone (512) 974-7480