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Community Media Future Funding Task Force May 2009 Update

The Task Force met on May 8, 2009.

In attendance were: Terry Dyke (CoA TARA), Rondella Hawkins (CoA TARA), Randy Kolb (Commission), Linda Litowsky (channelAustin), Keith Reeves (CoA PIO), Chip Rosenthal (Commission), Sol Waters (channelAustin).

The Task Force identified the two key factors that compel our work:

1. Loss of public access television operating funds mechanism due to Time Warner Cable transition from municipal franchise to state franchise anticipated in 2011.
2. Conclusion of current public access television management contract in 2011.

The Task Force adopted as its goal:

Initiate a community dialog on the future form and funding of community media (including public access television) in Austin, culminating in a recommendation to Council.

The Task Force identified two next steps:

1. Start compiling resources (other communities, community media groups, public interest groups, etc.) that are relevant to our investigation.
2. Begin planning on outreach activities.

We're concerned that people often don't associate cutting edge digital media with the term "public access television." We are, in fact, in the process of creating a state-of-the-art, high-def, multi-distribution media center in Austin. Therefore, the Task Force wants to change its name to substitute "Community Media" for the term "Public Access Television". This is done *not* to deemphasize access, but rather to ensure that all pertinent forms of media and delivery are considered.

The Task Force will meet next on June 8.