



Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission
www.ci.austin.tx.us/telcommission

Regular Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

The Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 9, 2009, 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, TX, City Hall, Room 1101.

Please go to www.ci.austin.tx.us/telcommission/schedule.htm for backup material associated with this agenda.

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.

1. Call to order – September 9, 2009 - 6:35 p.m.

Commission members in attendance:

Chip Rosenthal
Kedron Touvell
Wendell Ramsey
Lemuel Williams Jr.
Randall Kolb
Melvin White
Bianca Taulman

City staff in attendance:

Rondella Hawkins
Sheena Harden
Jane Reina
Terry Dyke

2. Adoption of agenda.

The agenda was adopted by a consent of the Commission.

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.

1. Ruth Epstein wanted to know if this Commission can make a recommendation to the FCC to support low power radio.
 2. Sueann Campbell asked where the Public Access Community Television (PACT) grant money is.
 3. Mary Anderson – Why are the producers problems not being resolved by this Commission? Public access is important to the viewers.
4. **Approval of minutes – August 12, 2009 Commission regular meeting.**

The minutes from the regular meeting of August 12, 2009 were approved on Commissioner Williams's motion; Commissioner White's second on a by consent

5. Invited Presentations

- a. Austin Free-Net (AFN) update. (Dale Thompson)(wp5)

Dale Thompson, Acting Executive Director, Austin Free-Net, gave a report on the activities of Austin Free-Net from April 2009 through June 2009 which included Public Access and Training Programs; Fix-Net Program; Disaster Response; Grants Received; Offices and Computer Labs in DeWitty Center; Austin Resource Center for the Homeless and the Texploration Program Activities.

6. Staff Briefings

- a. Legislative, Regulatory and Policy update. (wp7)

Rondella Hawkins, Manager, City of Austin Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs, reported the FCC is currently conducting National Broadband Plan staff workshops and public hearings for the purpose of promoting an open dialogue with key constituents and the FCC as part of its efforts to gather information for the development of a National Broadband Plan which is due to Congress February 17, 2010.

- b. Public Access Television update and contract performance review. (wp1)

Citizen Communications

1. Mauri Gandy – Has had nothing but good experiences with PACT in her effort to become a producer and produces her own shows.
2. J. Craig Gandy – He also had many good things to say about the training and helpful employees at PACT.
3. Ruth Epstein – Wants city contractors to comply with the Bill of Rights.
4. Sueane Campbell – Stated PACT has more holidays and fewer hours of operation. Since PACT has taken management there have been more grievances in the history of public access.

Terry Dyke, Research Analyst Senior with the City of Austin presented the contract performance review of Public Access Community Television (PACT) for contract period October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009 which included training; production and customer service; resource allocation; programming (all 3 channels) and reporting.

He also stated that public access management, PACT, will have a Digital Fusion Fest, October 10, 2009 from 2:00 to 5:30 pm to show off all the changes and improvements that have occurred at the studios and to promote public access in the Austin community.

- c. Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs) quarterly update. (Sheena Harden)(wp2)

Sheena Harden, Program Coordinator with the City of Austin, reported that all 2009 GTOPs contracts are underway and in compliance. She also reported on the status of the 2008 GTOPs contracts.

7. Old Business

- a. GTOPs Outreach Task Force update. (Taulman)(wp2)

Commissioner Taulman reported that the GTOPs Outreach Task Force has been in discussion on the budget; venue and awards for a GTOPs Event to celebrate 10 years of GTOPs. Potential Dates are April 21, 2010 or April 28, 2010 which will include dinner with guests. Award categories are being discussed, including how the winners are chosen. The Task Force will continue to receive pricing to finalize the budget for this event.

- b. Community Media Future Funding Task Force update. (Rosenthal) (wp1)

Commissioner Rosenthal reported that the Community Media Future Funding Task Force met on September 8, 2009. At this meeting it was noted that Bay Area Video Coalition was one organization that is having some success building a new model for community media services and funding. Denver Open Media and Portland Community Media had interesting community media models.

This Task Force is waiting on a bill to be filed by Representative Baldwin on legislation that could address the operating funds issue for community media

- c. Time Warner TV One Task Force update. (Ramsey)(wp9)

A resolution requesting Time Warner Cable to place TV One on their cable programming lineup was adopted on a motion by Commissioner Ramsey's motion, seconded by Commissioner White and passed on a vote of 7-0-0. Please refer to www.ci.austin.tx.us/telcommission/schedule.htm for copy of final resolution.

This resolution will be submitted to the City Council in hopes they will also forward a resolution to Time Warner Cable.

- d. Discussion and possible action on Commission procedures for invited speakers and back-up materials. (Rosenthal)

This item was postponed.

8. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible action on Commission recommendation for Public Access Community Television's (PACT) contract extension option to be effective October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2011. (Rosenthal)(wp1)

Motion to support exercising the approve Public Access Community Television's (PACT) contract extension option to be effective October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2011 was made by Commission Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Kolb, passed on a vote of 7-0-0.

- b. Update reports on networking relationships with other boards/commissions and groups, citywide and Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission (ACT&TC) information items.

There were no update reports or information items.

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

- o GTOPs Outreach Task Force update. (Taulman)(wp2)
- o Community Media Future Funding Task Force update. (Rosenthal) (wp1)
- o Discussion and possible action on Commission procedures for invited speakers and back-up materials. (Rosenthal)

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.