Regular Meeting

Minutes
Wednesday – March 10, 2010

Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission convened in a regular meeting Wednesday, March 10, 2010, 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas, City Hall, Room 1101.

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

All Channel 6 programming is cablecast on Time Warner Cable and Grande Communications cable channel 6, AT&T U-Verse Channel 99 and webcast online. Over 20 meetings per month, including this commission meeting, are available on demand online, typically within a few hours of cablecast. Schedules and video at: http://www.cityofaustin.org/channel6

The following items are posted for discussion and possible action.

1. **Call to order – March 10, 2010 - 6:37 p.m.**

   Commission members in attendance:
   Chip Rosenthal, Chair
   Kedron Touvell, Vice Chair
   Wendell Ramsey
   Lemuel Williams, Jr.
   Randall Kolb
   Melvin White
   Bianca Taulman

2. **Adoption of agenda.**

   The agenda was adopted by 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.

   There were no citizens signed up for general citizen communication.

4. **Approval of minutes – February 10, 2010 Commission regular meeting.**

   The minutes from the regular meeting of February 10, 2010 were approved on Commissioner Williams' motion; Commissioner Taulman's second, motion passed on consent of the Commission

5. **Staff Briefings**

   a. Legislative, Regulatory and Policy update. (Rondella Hawkins) (wp5)

   Rondella Hawkins, Manager, City of Austin Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs (TARA) reported that the FCC is scheduled to release its National Broadband Plan report on March 17th. Municipalities across the country are engaged with Congressional Reps and with the Administration that there is a concern there will be a recommendation by the FCC that the right of way compensation that is paid by the telecomm providers to use the rights of way to deploy their infrastructure will be limited to a cost base rather than what is traditionally compensated for rental of the right of way. This could be revenue loss to municipalities.

   b. Public Access Television update. (Rondella Hawkins) (wp1)

   Rondella Hawkins presented channelAustin's producer violations report.
   http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/telcommission/downloads/20100310bk-careport.pdf

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

   Sheena Harden, Program Coordinator with the City of Austin reported TARA staff will be conducting audits on Heart House of Austin and Easter Seals GTOPs grants.

   April 21, 2010 is the date for the GTOPs 10 Anniversary Gala Celebration at the Omni Hotel Downtown. For tickets and information please visit www.gtops.org. Funding for this celebration is from sponsors and ticket sales.

6. **Old Business**

   a. Discussion and possible action on timeline and recommendation from the Community Media Future Funding Task Force. (Rosenthal) (wp1)

   This item was postponed.

7. **New Business**

   a. Discussion and possible action on 2010 GTOPs grant recommendations. (Sheena Harden) (wp2)

   Motion to accept the Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs) Review Committee's 2010 GTOPs recommendations were as follows:
   American YouthWorks awarded $24,700.; Austin Academy awarded $7,000.; Austin Children's Museum awarded $13,200.; Austin Group for the elderly awarded $15,000.; El Buen Samaritano awarded $16,000.; Girlstart awarded $20,000.; Goodwill awarded $15,700.; Latinitas awarded $15,400.; and Multicultural Refugee Coalition awarded $23,000 was approved on Commissioner Touvell's motion; Commissioner Williams' second on a 7-0-0 vote.

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

Commissioner Rosenthal stated that City of Austin has partnered with a community group called Open Austin. OpenAustin was formed by citizens interested in City of Austin web strategy and approach. Through a series of conversations, common ground was developed between the City and OpenAustin to work together in a formal and recurring way. The goal is to develop new capacities for the City of Austin website while reducing or eliminating costs.

Commissioner Rosenthal stated two months ago this Commission passed a resolution with respect to the City's comprehensive plan asking for consideration for broadband and technology. This was presented to Neighborhood Planning and Zoning for consideration to be included in the comprehensive plan.

8. **City of Austin response to Google's "Fiber for Communities" Request for Information to build an ultra high speed broadband network in Austin.** (wp4)

   The Commission will suspend its normal order of business to take up this item at approximately 7:00 PM.

   Members of the public are invited to appear before the Commission and speak up to 3 minutes on the City of Austin response to the Google RFI. The Commission especially invites presentations from residents on: how they would use a high-bandwidth Internet connection, creative uses for such a facility, and points to present to Google that recommend Austin as a location for their fiber network trials.

   a. Invited Presentations

      Rondella Hawkins, City of Austin gave a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the Request for Information from Google. PowerPoint presentation located at http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/telcommission/downloads/20100310bk-tara-google-rfi-presentation.pdf.
      City Council's resolution directing City Manager to respond to Google's request for information: http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/telcommission/downloads/20100310bk-council-resol-google-rfi.pdf

      Commissioner Rosenthal gave a demonstration of www.BigGigAustin.org, a website requesting you to nominate Austin for Google's plan and to give their ideas for the Google ultra high speed network if built in Austin.

   The following speakers spoke of their ideas of how they or their organizations would use a high-bandwidth Internet connection.

      Linda Litowsky, channelAustin

      Brenda Branch, Austin Public Library (Presentation was made by **Joe Faulk** with Austin Public Library) http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/telcommission/downloads/20100310bk-apl-google-rfi-presentation.pdf

      Tamara Hudgins, Girlstart

Ed Henigin, Data Foundry, Inc.

In addition to the names above the following also spoke:
Dave Porter, Senior Vice President, Austin Chamber of Commerce
Dan Stanzione, Deputy Director, Texas Advanced Computing Center with the University of Texas Austin

b. Conduct Community Forum

Forum speakers:

Charlotte P. Jackson has confidence in the City regarding the response to Google's RFI.

Lee Webster with channelAustin stated with high speed broadband in our city we can stream a web channel for kids and by kids.

Taylor Perkins with Rare Media stated Austin has been has been rated the number one city for small business and the number one city for US economic growth. All of these things come together to make this a perfect start up city for Google.

Slow Pokey and Pam Thompson signed up but were not present when called to speak.

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

Proposed items for the April 14, 2010 regular meeting:

o   Austin Free-Net update. (wp4)
o   Discussion and possible action on timeline and recommendation from the Community Media Future Funding Task Force. (Rosenthal) (wp1)

10. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm