



Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission Regular Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday – August 11, 2010

The Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission convened in a regular meeting Wednesday, August 11, 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 and Grande 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>

Current Commission Members:

Chip Rosenthal, Chair	Kedron Touvell, Vice Chair
Wendell Ramsey	Lemuel Williams, Jr.
Randall Kolb	Melvin White

The following items are posted for discussion and possible action.

1. Call to order – August 11, 2010 - 6:34 p.m.

Commission members in attendance:

Chip Rosenthal, Chair
Kedron Touvell, Vice Chair
Wendell Ramsey
Lemuel Williams, Jr.
Melvin White

Commissioner Randall Kolb absent

City Staff in attendance

Rondella Hawkins
Sheena Harden
Jane Reina

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.

Sueann Campbell suggested that the Commission require the resolutions to violations that occur at Channel Austin.

4. **Approval of minutes – June 9, 2010 Commission regular meeting and July 14, 2010 Special Meeting.**

The minutes from the regular meeting of June 9, 2010 were approved on Commissioner Williams' motion; Commissioner Touvell's second. Motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote. (Commissioners Kolb absent)

The minutes from the Special meeting of July 14, 2010 were approved on Commissioner Ramsey's motion; Commissioner Touvell's second. Motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote. (Commissioners Kolb absent)

5. **Invited Presentations**

- a. Project updates and design proposals presentation on City website redesign. (Charles Purma, CTM) (wp4)

Doug Matthews, City of Austin's Chief Communications Officer and Charles Purma, City of Austin's Communications & Technology Management gave an update on the City's website redesign project. Much of the redesign of the website came from citizen suggestions on a survey at www.speakupaustin.org. [Austin GO Website Redesign Forum](#)

6. **Staff Briefings (Rondella Hawkins)**

- a. Legislative, Regulatory and Policy update. (wp5)

Rondella Hawkins, Manager of the City of Austin's Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs gave the legislative, regulatory and policy update which included Network Neutrality; Community Access Preservation Act of 2009 and the Public Utility Commission of Texas Rulemaking Workshop on Telephone Access Line fees. Back up located at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/edims/document.cfm?id=140885>

7. **New Business**

- a. Approve revised bylaws as directed by City Council in action taken on July 29, 2010, concerning officer terms. Discussion and possible action on bylaw revisions regarding Commission regular meeting date.

The revised bylaws of the Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission, changing the length of terms for officers, were approved on Commissioner Touvell's motion; Commissioner White's second. Motion passed on 5-0-0 vote. (Commissioners Kolb absent)

The Council Committee for Emerging Technology and Telecommunications' meetings fall on a dated that does not allow this Commission to bring items before the Committee in a timely manner. The

Commission discussed their options to move their regular meeting date. They found that meeting rooms and Channel 6 availability would not work with the date suggested.

- b. Election of board officers.

Commissioner Kedron Touvell was elected Chair of the Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission for the term of September 2010 through August 2011 by consent of the Commission.

Commissioner Chip Rosenthal was elected Vice-Chair of the Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission for the term of September 2010 through August 2011 by consent of the Commission.

- c. Discussion and possible action on recommendations from Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs) Annual Task Force. (Williams) (wp2)

The GTOPs Annual Task Force consisted of Commissioners Williams, Touvell and Rosenthal.

Sheena Harden, Program Coordinator with the City of Austin, reported on the recommendations of the task force and the timeline for the GTOPs application process for 2011. Back up located at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/edims/document.cfm?id=140848>.

Motion to accept the recommendations from the 2011 Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs) Annual Task Force was made on Commissioner Williams' motion; Commissioner Ramsey's second. Motion passed on a vote of 5-0-0. (Commissioners Kolb absent)

For more information on GTOPs please visit www.gtops.org

- d. Discussion and possible action on Time Warner Cable's movement of Austin Public, Education, Government (PEG) channels from analog to digital format. (Rosenthal) (wp1)

Rondella Hawkins gave a brief overview of the concerns of the City and citizens regarding Time Warner Cable's decision to move the Austin Public, Education, Government (PEG) channels from analog to digital format on October 1, 2010. Back up located at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/edims/document.cfm?id=140884>

Motion to accept a resolution to urge Time Warner Cable to treat Austin Public Education, Government (PEG) channels equitably; comply with all applicable City, State and Federal franchise and regulatory provision on cable services in Austin and continued PEG channel availability to all facilities now receiving City franchise required Time Warner Cable service without additional cost was made on Commissioner Ramsey's motion; Commission Touvell second. Motion passed on a vote of 5-0-0. (Commissioners Kolb absent)

Citizen Communications

Mary Anderson encouraged citizens to call Time Warner Cable at 512-485-6000 extension 0 to voice their concerns of the moving of the PEG channels to the digital tier.

Bruce Burton stated the cable franchise's intent was that all viewers could view City access channels. Would like to see the City consider the City Hotel Bed Tax as a funding source for Public Access.

Sueann Campbell stated the cable act of 1984 provided for the PEG channels to be on the lower tier and therefore be affordable. She does not want Time Warner to move the PEG channels to the upper tier. She encouraged citizens to contact Time Warner Cable to voice their concerns of the moving of the PEG channels to the digital tier.

- e. Discussion and possible action on Commission's recommendation for Public Access Management Services Contract. (Rosenthal) (wp1)

Commissioner Touvell gave an overview of the panel discussions at this Commission's Special meeting on July 14, 2010 regarding the Public Access Management Services request for proposal (RFP).

Citizen Communications

Sueann Campbell stated service to the public should be top priority. There needs to be transparency and accountability for a producer to get a resolution to a problem.

Commissioner Rosenthal encouraged the Commission to work on what to bring to the table regarding the scope of work for the RFP for Public Access Management Service Contract for this Commission's August 17, 2010 work session.

Citizens can leave their comments regarding this RFP at www.speakupaustin.org

- f. 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 he attended the Austin Music Commission's July meeting and they are also grappling with the expiration of TWC's franchise ending in 2011. The contract between METV and Time Warner is expiration and the agreement between the City of Austin and METV is ending.

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

This Commission will meeting for a work session on August 17, 2010 to discuss recommendations for Public Access Management Services Contract RFP scope of work. (wp1)

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm