

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE FOR  
EMERGING TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2011**

**Call meeting to order.**

The meeting was called to order at 3:07pm by Council Member Morrison. Council Member Morrison, Council Member Riley, and Council Member Spelman were present.

**1. General Citizen Communications (3 minutes to speak)**

Mr. Julio Gonzalez addressed the Committee concerning a proposal for the City Council to adopt an open data policy. Council Member Morrison stated she had received documents from Mr. Gonzalez and asked him to forward them to the rest of the Committee Members.

**2. Approval of minutes from the May 31, 2011 regular committee meeting.**

**A motion to adopt the minutes as to form from the May 31, 2011 Council Committee for Emerging Technology & Telecommunications regular meeting was made by Council Member Riley; seconded by Council Member Morrison. Vote 3-0.**

**3. Presentation: Austin Internet and Global Citizens Project, a residential technology survey conducted in partnership between the City of Austin and the University of Texas Department of Radio, Television & Film (Rondella Hawkins, Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs Officer, Dr. Joseph Straubhaar and Jeremiah Spence, University of Texas Dept of Radio, Television & Film)**

Ms. Hawkins stated that the survey was accomplished with the assistance of UT graduate students and addressed needs of the community, availability of technology, the literacy and skills of the community, and the use of tech devices, public access television and the City's Channel 6. With the assistance of UT, the cost of the survey was reduced from \$75,000 to approximately \$21,000.

Dr. Straubhaar spoke about how non-users view the internet—perception is high cost, time consuming, and privacy issues. The point of access to the internet for most users is either at home or at work. The survey results stated that most of the people watching the local government channels were lower income and most of the people watching government over the internet were middle or upper income with higher education.

The conclusions that were drawn from the survey included:

- Keep free internet service available at the library and expanding to other venues,
- Need for more training for minorities and lower income population on access,
- Keep City Government Access channels to reach lower income population,
- Keep website to reach middle and upper income populations,
- Repeat survey at least every 2-3 years and let people respond online

4. **Update: Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission (Kedron Touvell, Chair)**

An update was provided by Chip Rosenthal, Vice Chair of the Commission. Mr. Rosenthal stated that the support of the Council Committee was essential to the success of the commission and the commission appreciated the support of the committee. Successes this year included the negotiation of a new management contract for the public access television station, completion of the community technology survey, and an increase in the funding for GTOPS.

5. **Briefing: Austin Go Web Design and concurrent projects (Stephen Elkins, Chief Information Officer, Communications and Public Information Office)**

Mr. Elkins began with a brief history of the project stating that there had been several different RFP's issued at various times, including that last one issued in early 2011. None of the RFP's has produced the desired results, which resulted in the City Council approving the staff suggestion of design and implementation in house in April. The team (which includes representatives from PIO, CTM, and contract staff) is currently working with the departments to make their deadline of December for a live release.

Mr. Elkins stated they have been working on some parallel projects along with the web redesign including a data portal, mobile apps, application for a grant from Code for America, and online credit card transactions for payments to the City. The Code for America grant would include 3 developers that would work for 1 year on a City issue involving open platform, which could be asset tracking, transit issues or school bus routes as examples. Once selected, cities have access to all other studies conducted with Code for America.

6. **Discussion and Possible Action: Review overall mission and topics of interest such as sustainable economic development and renewable energy technologies of the Council Committee for Emerging Technology & Telecommunications**

The Committee would like to work on the following topics:

- Sustainable economic development
- Energy-related issues such as solar technology, battery development, energy efficiency, weatherization and challenges facing the industry
- Gaming industry
- Identifying digital opportunities to build a technologically literate & capable community
- Strategic plan for technological government mobile applications

7. **Consider agenda items for next meeting, scheduled for 3:00 pm Wednesday, September 14, 2011 or at the call of the committee chair.**

The Committee would like more information on payments to the City by online credit card transactions.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.