

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE FOR
EMERGING TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2012**

Call meeting to order.

The meeting was called to order at 1:08pm by Council Member Morrison.

1. General Citizen Communications

Mr. Scott Johnson addressed the Committee concerning cell phone usage by cyclists. Mr. Johnson suggested that the ordinance restricting cell phone usage be expanded to cover cyclists.

2. Approval of minutes from the January 25, 2012 regular committee meeting

A motion to adopt the minutes as to form from the January 25, 2012 Council Committee for Emerging Technology & Telecommunications regular meeting was made by Council Member Riley; seconded by Council Member Spelman. Vote 3-0.

3. Update: Public Access Community Television, Inc. (Linda Litowsky, Executive Director)

Ms. Linda Litowsky provided an update on Public Access Community Television, Inc. for the Committee. Ms. Litowsky stated the station is now operating under its new contract with the City of Austin. Ms. Litowsky provided a video of some of the programming created by citizens using the services at ChannelAustin.

4. Update: Austin Technology Incubator (ATI) (Isaac Barchas, Director, Austin Technology Incubator)

Mr. Barchas presented information on the City's investment in the Incubator stating that in the 2010/11 fiscal cycle the Incubator invested in 39 companies which created 465 direct and indirect jobs and 35 student internships. The return on investment is approximately \$73 million on a \$600,000 investment.

5. Presentation: Mandatory and voluntary Green Building ratings and practices used to advance energy and resource efficient technologies and building codes (Richard Morgan, Green Building & Emerging Technologies Manager, Austin Energy)

Mr. Morgan presented information on improvements to the Green Building codes and practices stating that as we create more stringent code, the tools also become better. This creates a continuous improvement cycle that has led to a progressive energy code and a Green Building program recognized as the most advanced and effective in the country.

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

Without objection this item was postponed until the next meeting.

7. Presentation: Code for American Volunteers who will be working with the Communications and Public Information Office

Aurelio Tinio, Emily Moore, and Joe Merante were introduced to the Committee as the Code for America Volunteers working in Austin. Code for America is a non-profit based in San Francisco. The volunteers go through a one-month training camp and then are sent to cities that have been selected and work there for about five months collecting information and working with local citizens and governments. Once the data is collected, the volunteers return to San Francisco to work on the issues.

8. Consider agenda items for next meeting.

The focus of the April agenda will be community solar.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm.