COUNCIL COMMITTEE FOR
EMERGING TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 30, 2013

Call meeting to order.

The meeting was called to order at 1:05pm by Council Member Morrison.

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

   There were no speakers.

2. **Approval of minutes from the February 20, 2013 regular committee meeting**

   <u>A motion to adopt the minutes as to form from the February 20, 2013 Council Committee for Emerging Technology & Telecommunications regular meeting was made by Council Member Spelman; seconded by Council Member Riley. Vote 3-0.</u>

3. **Update: Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce Technology Partnership (Susan Davenport, Vice President, Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce)**

   Ms. Susan Davenport updated the Committee on the current status of the partnership and changes taking place in Austin that will have an effect on the high tech environment. These changes include the Waller Creek Tunnel Project, the University of Texas at Austin Medical School, and advances in social media including cloud sourcing.

4. **Update: City of Austin Digital Inclusion Initiatives (Rondella Hawkins, Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs Officer)**

   Ms. Rondella Hawkins and Mr. John Speirs from TARA updated the Committee on the City's digital inclusion initiatives. The TARA Office supports programs aimed at increasing access to information and communication technologies through programs such as Grant for Technology Opportunities (GTOPS), Austin Free-Net (free computer access and classes), Austin Internet and global Citizens Project, Channel Austin, among others. The TARA Office plans to partner with the University of Texas at Austin to conduct another Digital Inclusion Survey either later this year or in 2014. The Committee would like to receive the results when they are compiled.

5. **Update: Open Austin Working Group (Chip Rosenthal, Austin Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission)**

   Mr. Chip Rosenthal and Mr. Herb Watkins updated the Committee on the activities of the Open Austin Working Group which is a group of citizen volunteers that advocate for open government, open data and civic technology. The group is currently focusing on creating apps that provide useful information for citizens such as a Recycle App so that customers of Austin Resource Recovery can find out if it is their week for recycling, and the Bike Buddy App which allows newcomers or new riders to connect with others that are more experienced at commuting by bicycle.

6. Consider agenda items for next meeting.

At the May meeting there will be a presentation from Howard Lazarus on the Office of Innovation and a briefing on the activities of Pecan Street, Inc.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35pm.