COUNCIL COMMITTEE FOR
EMERGING TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 15, 2013

Call meeting to order.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05pm by Council Member Morrison.

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

    Mr. Chip Rosenthal spoke to the Committee about the activities of the Open Austin Working Group stating that the "Bike Buddy" app is now available. Mr. Rosenthal also noted that a Tech Expo would be held at Austin City Hall on May 23rd and the ATX Hackathon would be held at St. Edward's University on June 1st & 2nd.

2. **Approval of minutes from the April 30, 2013 regular committee meeting**

    A motion to adopt the minutes as to form from the April 30, 2013 Council Committee for Emerging Technology & Telecommunications regular meeting was made by Council Member Riley; seconded by Council Member Morrison with Council Member Spelman off the dais. Vote 2-0.

3. **Briefing on research on effects of residential retrofits and green building measures on cost-of-service and customer electric bills (Brewster McCracken, President & CEO Pecan Street, Inc.)**

    Mr. Brewster McCracken, Mr. Chris Holcomb, and Mr. Matthew Crosby presented information on the latest developments at Pecan Street, Inc. Mr. McCracken stated that the Pike Powers Lab would be opening in June 2013 and would enable them to study residential power usage in great detail. Mr. McCracken also stated that Pecan Street would also begin studying residential electric usage by apartment dwellers, which has not been done in the past.

4. **Status on the creation of the City of Austin's Office of Innovation (Howard Lazarus, Director, Public Works Department)**

    Mr. Howard Lazarus and Mr. Douglas Matthews provided a status report on the creation of an Office of Innovation for the City, stating that they are studying how this has been done in several peer cities across the country.

5. **Overview of the Greater Austin Area Telecommunications Network (GAATN) (Stephen Elkins, City Information Officer, Communications & Technology Management Department)**

    Mr. Stephen Elkins presented information on the upgrading of the GAATN which is used by most of the government entities in Travis County including the City of Austin. The network connections are being upgraded from 40GB of bandwidth to 800GB of bandwidth.

6. **Process for prioritizing the public and non-profit facilities that will be connected to Google fiber.**

Ms. Rondella Hawkins, Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs Officer, presented a memo to the Committee stating that the City has entered into an agreement with Google Fiber Texas, LLC to construct a fiber network capable of delivering 1 GB broadband Internet connectivity. Google will provide service to City Hall, the new Central Library and up to 100 additional public facilities.

Mr. Stefan Wray, ChannelAustin, spoke in favor of the new service stating that the public access channels should be considered for this service.

7. **Consider agenda items for next meeting.**

The topic for the June meeting will be the City Council's Open Government Initiative.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm.