

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE FOR
EMERGING TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
MEETING MINUTES
June 12, 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)

There were no speakers.

2. Approval of minutes from the May 15, 2013 regular committee meeting

A motion to adopt the minutes as to form from the May 15, 2013 Council Committee for Emerging Technology & Telecommunications regular meeting was made by Council Member Riley; seconded by Council Member Morrison. Vote 2-0 with Council Member Spelman off the dais.

3. Status report on City implementation of Council Open Government Resolution No. 2011208-074 which directed the City Manager to develop recommendations for elements of an Open Government Framework to address free access and disclosure of City data (Open Data), development of open source platforms, development of mobile applications, and social media (Stephen Elkins, Chief Information Officer, Communications & Technology Management Department)

Mr. Stephen Elkins, Mr. Matt Esquivel, and Mr. Doug Matthews provided a status report on the resolution. Mr. Matthews and Mr. Esquivel stated that the City is currently working to expand on the work done previously by the Code for America group and looking for opportunities to develop more apps to release data sets.

Mr. Julio Gonzalez with Open Austin spoke of concerns with the pace of release of data sets saying that the expectation was for quicker release of information and that he has a concern about the lack of strategy for use of mobile apps.

Mr. Chip Rosenthal with Open Austin and the Austin Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission agreed that the pace of data release was too slow and that the data was necessary for the creation of mobile apps. Mr. Rosenthal also has concerns about the role of the Austin Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission for community engagement in the creation of the Office of Innovation which was directed by Council Resolution 2011208-074 stating that the Commission has not been engaged by staff.

4. Review of the Austin Local Solar Advisory Committee recommendations for optimizing the use of the City's local solar resource (Debbie Kimberly, Austin Energy, Vice President of Distributed Energy Services and Steve Wiese, Chair of Austin Local Advisory Committee)

Ms. Debbie Kimberly, Mr. Fred Yebra, and Ms. Leslie Libby from Austin Energy provided information on the future solar goals for the City of Austin. The City's current goal is 200 megawatts by the year 2020, while the Local Solar Advisory Committee recommends increasing that goal to 400 megawatts. The City is currently at approximately 50 megawatts of solar installed. With the price of solar panels and installation gradually being reduced, the utility recommends that rebates be gradually reduced while introducing financing options.

Mr. Colin Meehan spoke on behalf of the Austin Local Solar Advisory Committee stating that the 200 megawatts goal is no change from the current path. Mr. Meehan suggested that the City would benefit from the creation of a solar ecosystem. Mr. Meehan agreed for the need to reduce the amount of rebates over time as the cost of the systems and installation is reduced.

Mr. Charlie Hemmeline spoke in favor of the report from the Local Solar Advisory Committee.

Mr. Matt Weldon spoke in favor of maintaining solar rebates in the City's budget suggesting that the rebate amounts be reduced to enable more customers to receive a rebate.

Mr. John Sutton spoke in favor of the report from the Local Solar Advisory Committee.

Mr. Tuan Pham spoke about long-term energy pricing and the lack of generation capacity in Texas. Solar is useful for adding capacity during the high-demand times of year.

Mr. Michael Kuhn spoke in favor of the report from the Local Solar Advisory Committee and that the committee was very diverse which resulted in difficulty in coming to consensus. Mr. Kuhn stated that the final vote by the committee on the report was unanimous.

Ms. Kaiba White spoke in favor of the report from the Local Solar Advisory Committee. Ms. White stated that the City should move forward to implement the plan.

Mr. Sunshine Mathon spoke in favor of the report from the Local Solar Advisory Committee. Mr. Mathon also stated that the production goal should be tied to population growth rather than what is currently viewed as feasible.

5. Consider agenda items for next meeting.

There were no items for consideration.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm.