

Open Government Working Group Update

October 9, 2013

Members

Commissioners: Chip Rosenthal (chair), Lemuel Williams, Wendell Ramsey

Community: Julio Gonzalez Altamirano, Conor Kenny, Ben Hockenhull

Innovation Office Meeting

On Monday, September 30, the Working Group met with Assistant City Manager Anthony Snipes to discuss status of the Innovation Office initiative.

Some of the information we received was:

- The process for hiring an innovation officer to lead the innovation office continues. Howard Lazarus is overseeing that process. Some form of public engagement in the process is expected, but as of yet unknown. Response to the posting has been strong.
- An as-of-yet unnamed group will have responsibility for governance of the Open Government Initiative. This group is expected to include the innovation officer, a data architect (anticipated second hire in the innovation office), ACM Snipes, ACM Arellano (a new hire, previously having worked as CIO in San Diego and Tacoma), CIO Stephen Elkins, Director of Public Information Doug Matthews. ACM Snipes is acting leader for the initiative until this group is established.

The WG expressed desire to clarify mission and goals for the innovation office. ACM Snipes expressed concern about not constricting the office before the incoming leadership has an opportunity to define the program.

The WG has produced a proposed set of draft, high-level goals for Commission consideration. The WG requests that the Commission consider this draft, and approve a mission and goals document to send to the City Manager as a proposal.

Working Group Charter

The WG was formed at the Dec. 14, 2011 meeting, with the following action:

Motion to form [an] Open Government Working Group to make a recommendation to this Commission on how this Commission should proceed on Open Government framework was approved ... [Commissioner] Rosenthal will chair this group with [Commissioners] Ramsey and Williams [...] participating. (<http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=162746>)

The WG Chair requests an updated motion from the Commission, to provide direction for continued work.

Upcoming Activity

The WG Chair has requested a meeting to discuss public engagement and process for the Innovation Officer hiring.