

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE FOR
EMERGING TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 22, 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 September 18, 2013 regular committee meeting

A motion to adopt the minutes as to form from the September 18, 2013 Council Committee for Emerging Technology & Telecommunications regular meeting was made by Council Member Spelman; seconded by Council Member Riley. Vote 3-0.

3. Update: Physical improvements to the Austin Studios, activities in support of National Endowment for the Arts “Our Town” grant, and timeline for remodeling of the Austin Studios utilizing 2012 City of Austin Bond Funding (Rebecca Campbell, Executive Director, Austin Film Society)

Ms. Rebecca Campbell presented information on the improvements to Austin Studios which includes adding the National Guard Armory Building to the studio complex. Ms. Campbell also noted that an old movie theatre at Lincoln Village has been updated to include new technology and is now available to the community as The Marchesa Hall & Theatre. Ms. Campbell noted that the planning under the NEA “Our Town” grant is nearing completion which brought in advice from all over the country. The 2012 bond funding will be used for remodeling and overall studio lot improvements.

4. Update: Status of the hiring of the Innovation Officer (Howard Lazarus, Director, Public Works Department)

Mr. Mark Washington, Director, Human Resources Department, presented information on the status of hiring the Innovation Officer. Mr. Washington stated that recruitment had begun in August and 455 applications had been received. The applications are currently being screened by a consultant.

Mr. Howard Lazarus stated that integration of information from the Austin Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission was ongoing into the hiring process.

Mr. Chip Rosenthal, Austin Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission addressed the Committee stating that he has concerns about the process and the scope of work for the Innovation Office.

- 5. Presentation: Regarding the strategic plan and recommendations of the Austin Local Solar Advisory committee related to the use of Austin's local solar energy resource base (Austin Collins, DNV KEMA; Michael Wiese, Chair, Local Solar Advisory Committee)**

Mr. Austin Collins and Dr. Olaf Beestrom stated that they had reviewed the assumptions used in the Austin Local Solar Advisory Committee (LSAC) report. Dr. Beestrom stated that they agreed with most of the assumptions used by the LSAC report with the exception of their cost methodology.

Mr. Steve Wiese and Mr. Collin Meehan stated that DNV KEMA had used a methodology based on the futures market whereas LSAC had used the value of replacing a generation plant (capital and operation costs).

Mr. Cyrus Reed spoke in favor of the LSAC goal.

Ms. Kaiba White spoke in favor of the LSAC goal.

- 6. Presentation: Demonstration of Austin Energy residential customer rate tier awareness web-enabled application (Liz Jambor, Manager, Austin Energy Data Analytics and Business Intelligence, Michael Cation, CEO, SmarteBuilding)**

Ms. Liz Jambor and Mr. Michael Cation provided a demonstration of the new web-enabled application which can be accessed via a personal computer, laptop, or Smart phone. The app can be used by Austin Energy customers to see their actual energy use and to sign up for alerts when they are approaching the threshold for the next rate tier.

- 7. Presentation: Regarding the solar credit provided to customers under the residential solar tariff (Pat Sweeney, Director, Energy & Market Operations, Austin Energy; Debbie Kimberly, Vice President, Customer Energy Solutions, Austin Energy)**

Without objection this item was postponed.

- 8. Update: Application Process for Community Connections Program which will provide Google Fiber service free of charge to 100 public or nonprofit facilities (Rondella Hawkins and John Speirs, Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs Office)**

Ms. Rondella Hawkins stated that they had received an overwhelming response to the Google Fiber Community Connections Program. The TARA Office has received 307 site applications from 157 organizations.

- 9. Briefing: Criteria and process for installing fiber optic lines, particularly Section 14-11-164 of the City Code (George Adams, Assistant Director, Planning and Development Review Department; Leon Barba, Assistant Director, Planning and Development Review Department; Jason Redfern, Manager, Austin Transportation Department, Right of Way Management; Greg Pepper, Engineering Associate, Austin Transportation Department, Right of Way Management; Ed Poppitt, Consulting Engineer, Public Works Department)**

Mr. Jason Redfern provided the process followed by the Austin Utility Location and Coordination Committee which meets weekly to discuss proposed utility installation applications.

Mr. George Adams provided the process followed by the Planning & Development Review Department for utility installation applications.

Mr. Ed Poppitt provided the process followed by the Public Works Department for utility installation applications including the engineering seal.

Mr. Trey Salinas with AT&T addressed the Committee stating that AT&T would like to be part of the process.

10. Consider agenda items for next meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:09pm.