Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission
http://www.austintexas.gov/cttc

REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
Wednesday –November 8th, 2023 – 6:30PM
City Hall – Boards and Commissions – Room 1101
301 W 2nd Street - Austin, TX 78701

Please go to http://www.austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards_commissions/meetings/10_1.htm for backup materials associated with this agenda.
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The Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission convened in a REGULAR meeting on Wednesday, November 8th, 2023, at 301 W. 2nd St. in Austin, Texas.

Current Commission Members
Keith Pena Villa - Mayor Kirk Watson
Nehemiah Pitts III - Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison, District 1
Steven Apodaca – Council Member Vanessa Fuentes, District 2
Carina Alderete - Council Member José Velásquez, District 3
Cristina Garza - Council Member José "Chito" Vela, District 4
Thomas Rice- Council Member Ryan Alter, District 5
Gabriel Nwajiaku- Council Member Mackenzie Kelly,District 6
Maxine Eiland - Council Member Leslie Pool, District 7
Amarige Azzam - Council Member Paige Ellis, District 8
Vacant – Council Member Zohaib "Zo" Qadri, District 9
Sumit DasGupta - Council Member Alison Alter, District 10

Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance:
Nehemiah Pitts III, Chair
Steven Apodaca, Vice Chair
Carina Alderete

Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:
Sumit DasGupta
Cristina Garza
Amarige Azzam
Keith Pena Villa

Board Members/Commissioners Not in Attendance:
Maxine Eliand
Thomas Rice
Gabriel Nwajiaku

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Pitts called the Community Technology and Telecommunications Meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

The first ten speakers who register to speak no later than noon the day before the meeting will be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

No members of the public were signed up to speak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1.   Approve the minutes of the Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission Regular meeting on July 12th, 2023

Motion to approve the minutes made by Vice Chair Apodaca and seconded by Commissioner Garza. The minutes from (7/12/2023) were approved on a vote of 6-0.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

2.   "You're Being Watched – AI & Surveillance in Public Places" Presentation (Sharon Strover – Director, Technology & Information Policy Institute, Phillip G. Warner Regents Professor of Communication, Moody College of Communications, University of Texas at Austin)

This item has been moved to a future meeting pending Dr. Strover's availability.

3.   Call for commission input on Grant for Technology Opportunities Program Updates Action Plan for FY24

The presentation on the GTOPs 2024 Action Plan was delivered by Jesse Rodriguez and can be viewed at this link: https://austintx.new.swagit.com/videos/280621

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.   Commission Discussion on Digital Empowerment Community of Austin (DECA) Mission and Structure

Commission discussed the Digital Empowerment Community of Austin (DECA), including its mission, structure, and potential recommendations for involving non-GTOPs awardees in DECA activities. City Staff reiterated that this was proposed as part of the work plan, and that all applicants will receive information about DECA and its events. Chair Pitts also mentioned formalizing DECA to enhance its effectiveness but acknowledged its current strength as a flexible, informal network. Lastly, the possibility of expanding the Commission's involvement beyond the Digital Inclusion Working Group was discussed, with suggestions to bring ideas to DECA for further action.

5.   Commission Discussion of Digital Inclusion Ecosystem Stakeholder Summit and alignment with Federal Digital Equity Plan and State Digital Opportunity Plan calls for public comment

Chair Pitts discussed the Digital Inclusion Ecosystem Stakeholder Summit, focusing on its alignment with the Federal Digital Equity Plan and State Digital Opportunity Plan. The summit, initially planned for Digital Inclusion Week, was rescheduled to December 1st. The event aims to educate participants on the digital divide, highlight organizations working towards digital inclusion, and foster public-private partnerships. The summit, now planned to be held at the Austin Public Library Special Event Center, will include workshops, distinguished speakers, and opportunities for public comment on the Federal and State digital plans, emphasizing civic engagement and the promotion of digital inclusion.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

6.   Approval of the CTTC 2023 Meeting Schedule

In this segment of the meeting, the Commission deliberated on the 2023 meeting schedule. They discussed potential conflicts with certain dates, including the March meeting which coincides with Spring Break and South by Southwest, and the February meeting which conflicts with the NDIA Conference. It was noted that historically, getting a quorum during the March meeting has not been an issue, but the February meeting may need to be rescheduled for the first Wednesday of the month. Additionally, the Commission considered changing their usual month off to another month other than August, with a consensus to move it to December. This was due to August's leading up to Digital Inclusion Week and the fact that December tends to be a hectic month for many due to holiday commitments.

Motion to approve the calendar with the requested edits made by Chair Pitts and seconded by Vice Chair Apodaca. The motion passed and the calendar was approved on a vote of 7-0.

WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE UPDATES

7. Update from Digital Inclusion, Civic Engagement, and Strategic Technology and Telecom Policy Working Group

Chair Pitts discussed the Summit and the importance of disseminating the communications plan for the event. They also highlighted the passage of Proposition 8, establishing a broadband development fund, and the active engagement of the Broadband Development Office. An important update was the plan for Digital Inclusion Town Hall listening sessions, with a session scheduled for December 9th at the University Hills Branch Library.

8. Update from the Knowledge, Information, and Data Stewardship Working Group

Vice Chair Apodaca noted that the group had not met in several months due to availability issues but is planning to reconvene. The working group, currently consisting of Vice Chair Apodaca, Chair Pitts, and Commissioner Garza, has two available spots for new members. The last action of the group was the submission of their final report to the Commission, with a suggestion to distribute these reports to new commissioners for reference.

9. Update from Technology, Infrastructure, and Innovation Working Group

Commissioner DasGupta stated that the group has three vacancies and he met with Chair Pitts to discuss the BEAD initiative from congress.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **Briefing on Surveillance by Sharon Strover and Charles Perma**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner DasGupta, seconded by Vice Chair Apodaca, passed on a vote of 7-0 at 9:02pm.

The minutes were approved at the December 13th Regular Meeting on Commissioner DasGupta's motion and Commissioner Nwajiaku's second. The motion passed on a vote of 7-0-0.