



COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

<http://www.austintexas.gov/cttc>

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Wednesday – March 10, 2021 – 6:30 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCING

Please go to http://www.austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards_commissions/meetings/10_1.htm for backup material associated with this agenda.

All ATXN (City Channel 6) programming is cablecast on Spectrum, Grande Communications, and Google Fiber on their cable channel 6, on AT&T U-Verse Channel 99 and webcast online. Over 20 meetings per month, including this commission meeting, are available on demand online, typically within a few hours of the cablecast. Schedules and video can be found at:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/page/atxn-video-archive>.

CURRENT COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Sophie Gairo - Mayor Steve Adler

Nehemiah Pitts III - Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison, District 1

Vacant - Mayor Pro Tem Delia Garza, District 2

Malcolm Yeatts - Council Member Sabino "Pio" Renteria, District 3

David Alexander - Council Member Gregorio Casar, District 4

Dave Floyd - Council Member Ann Kitchen, District 5

Irfan Syed - Council Member Jimmy Flannigan, District 6

Vacant - Council Member Leslie Pool, District 7

Vacant - Council Member Paige Ellis, District 8

Nicole Thompson – Council Member Kathie Tovo, District 9

Sumit DasGupta - Council Member Alison Alter, District 10

Commission Members Present

Sophie Gairo

Nehemiah Pitts III

Malcolm Yeatts

David Alexander

Dave Floyd

Sumit DasGupta

Unexcused Absence

Irfan Syed

Excused Absence

Nicole Thompson

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM

CITIZEN 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.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 13, 2021 and February 10, 2021

Motion to approve the January 13, 2021 minutes made by Commissioner Gairo and seconded by Commissioner DasGupta passed on a vote of 6-0.

Motion to approve the February 10, 2021 minutes made by Commissioner DasGupta and seconded by Chair Pitts failed on a vote of 5-0-1 with Commissioner Gairo abstaining.

2. STAFF AND COMMUNITY BRIEFINGS (A member of the public may not address a board at a meeting on an item posted as a briefing)

a. TARA Office Legislative Briefing (John Speirs, Program Manager – Telecom & Regulatory Affairs)

There was no backup for this item, but the video can be viewed [here](#).

b. Grant for Technology Opportunities Program – Brief update on applications submitted (Jesse Rodriguez, Business Process Specialist – Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs)

The presentation by Jesse Rodriguez can be viewed here.

3. NEW BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action)

a. FY 22 Budget Recommendations (Commission Discussion and Possible Action)

Motion to support Commissioner Gairo leading a requirements gathering effort on the Commission's recommendation for the City to support ongoing remote participation at commission meetings made by Chair Pitts, seconded by Commissioner DasGupta, passed on a vote of 6-0.

Motion made to support reaching out to Open Austin on the effort to make City Council votes data-analyzable made by Chair Pitts and seconded by Commissioner Gairo passed on a vote of 6-0.

4. COMMISSION UPDATES (Discussion and Possible Action)

a. Digital Inclusion, Civic Engagement, and Strategic Technology and Telecom Policy Working Group

Chair Pitts reminded the Commission of the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program. He also discussed the two GTOPs 2021 panel meetings that have occurred thus far.

b. Knowledge, Information, and Data Stewardship Working Group

Commissioner Alexander noted the updated scheduling of this working group and volunteered his working group to reach out to Open Austin on the Council vote tabature.

c. Technology, Infrastructure, and Innovation Working Group

Commissioner Floyd noted that the working group discussed the remote participation item, discussed at length in this meeting. The working group also discussed how Austin Energy and Austin Water's disaster response might intersect with this commission's purview. Also discussed was how solar and battery power can be leveraged at the residential level in the future to have more resilient energy systems. Lastly, it was noted in the meeting that shared conduit laid by the City might be a non-starter, as ISP's are against recurring rental fees.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Budget recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner DasGupta and seconded by Commissioner Floyd passed on a vote of 6-0.

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 2 days before the meeting date. Please contact Jesse Rodriguez at the Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs at (512) 974-7676, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

For more information on the Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission, please visit their website at <http://www.austintexas.gov/cttc> or contact Jesse Rodriguez at jesse.rodriguez@austintexas.gov.

Posting Submitted by: Jesse Rodriguez, Business Process Specialist, Wednesday, March 1, 2021