



**Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission
Regular Meeting**

Minutes

Wednesday – June 9, 2010

The Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission convened in a regular meeting Wednesday, June 9, 2010, 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas, City Hall, Room 1101.

Please go to www.ci.austin.tx.us/telcommission/meetings.htm for backup material associated with this agenda.

All Channel 6 programming is cablecast on Time Warner and Grande cable channel 6, 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 cablecast. Schedules and video at: <http://www.cityofaustin.org/channel6>

The following items are posted for discussion and possible action.

1. Call to order – June 9, 2010 - 6:34 p.m.

Commission members in attendance:

Chip Rosenthal, Chair
Kedron Touvell, Vice Chair
Wendell Ramsey
Lemuel Williams, Jr.
Randall Kolb
Melvin White

Commissioner Bianca Taulman had an excused absence

City Staff in attendance

Rondella Hawkins
Jane Reina

2. Adoption of agenda.

The agenda was adopted by consent of the Commission on Commissioner Touvell's motion; Commissioner Kolb's second.

3. Citizen Communication: General

The first 10 speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

There were no citizens signed up for general citizen communication.

4. Approval of minutes – May 12, 2010 Commission regular meeting.

The minutes from the regular meeting of May 12, 2010 were approved on Commissioner Kolb's motion; Commissioner Williams' second. Motion passed on a 6-0-0 vote. (Commissioner Taulman absent.)

5. Staff Briefings (Rondella Hawkins)

- a. Legislative, Regulatory and Policy update. (wp5)

Rondella Hawkins, Manager of the City of Austin's Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs gave the legislative, regulatory and policy update which included a report on the FCC's Proposed Third Way for Classification of Broadband Services or "Title Two Light"; the FCC Universal Service Proceeding; the FCC Intergovernmental Rights-of-Way Task Force and Key Congressional leaders announce plan to update the Communications Act.

6. Old Business

- a. Discussion and possible action on recommendations to Council on the 2011 budget. (Rosenthal) (wp6)

Motion to reconsider the Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications action on June 9, 2010 with regards to 2011 funding for the ascertainment study was approved on Commissioner Kolb's motion; Commissioner Touvell's second. Motion passed on a 6-0-0 vote. (Commissioner Taulman absent.)

7. New Business

- a. Appointment of Grant for Technology Opportunities Program's (GTOPs) annual task force. (Rosenthal) (wp2)

Motion to create the Grant for Technology Opportunities Program's (GTOPs) Annual Task Force with Commissioners Williams, White and Touvell as members was approved on Commissioner's Touvell's motion; Commissioner Williams' second. Motion passed on a 6-0-0 vote. (Commissioner Taulman absent.)

8. Public Forum on the Request for Proposal (RFP) for public access TV management services to start no earlier than 7:00 p.m. (wp1)

Mary Anderson would like the RFP to state that service to the public be number one and also to strike the clause that the station should earn a certain amount of money as a goal. She asked there be lower cost for training.

Ruth Epstein would like the RFP to state that management follows the same rules regarding the first amendment that city departments must follow.

David Kobievowski stated that it is critical for our democracy to have public access. The Austin public access studios could be a more comfortable environment.

Ross Wilsey stated the atmosphere at the studios is sometimes toxic. Public access is an important resource and we need to keep it. There needs to be balance between getting things on the air and not picking on smaller issues.

Stefan Wray stated that state law allows establishment of reasonable guidelines regarding uses of public, educational and government (PEG) access channels. Capital funding that will be available to access does not have guidelines on how those funds will be allocated. Feels this Commission should establish those guidelines for PEG access.

Sueann Campbell stated the RFP should focus on superior customer services to public access for the people to make their own shows. The RFP does not need a manager that is an expert at producing programs but one that is expert in helping other do their own productions. The studio should operate with volunteers. Do not require making money using public access equipment and resources. The studios should be run like a true none profit.

Chad Williams stated the RFP needs to contain language that specially contains operational funding to public access to survive. The City may no longer play the roll of the fiduciary on the use of capital funding.

Stacy Moreno stated public access has been a great resource for her.

George Warmingham stated to please find a way to keep the wonderful Austin resource of public access.

Natomi Austin stated the RFP must have a portion of it dedicated the operational cost. To remove a staple like public access television would not be in the best interest of the city.

David Karavs stated community television and its history in this country is so important as a part of freedom of speech.

9. New Business Continued

- a. Update reports on networking relationships with other boards/commissions and groups, citywide and Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission (ACT&TC) information items.

There were no updates to report.

10. Discussion of agenda items for ACT&TC future meetings.

July 14, 2010 will not be a regular meeting but a Special meeting with a panel discussion on the RFP for public access TV management services.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm