



**Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission
Regular Meeting** www.ci.austin.tx.us/telcommission

MINUTES

Wednesday – May 11, 2011

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Current Commission Members:

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

The following items are posted for discussion and possible action.

1. Call to order – May 11, 2011 - 6:36 p.m.

Commission members in attendance:

Kedron Touvell, Chair
Chip Rosenthal, Vice Chair
Wendell Ramsey
Lemuel Williams, Jr.
Randall Kolb
Elizabeth Quintanilla

Commissioner Melvin White, absent.

City Staff in attendance

Rondella Hawkins
John Speirs
Jane Reina
Robert Heil

2. Adoption of agenda.

The agenda was adopted by consent of the Commission.

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.

No citizens signed up for general citizen communication.

4. Approval of minutes – April 13, 2011 Commission Regular Meeting

The minutes from the Commission regular meeting of April 13, 2011 was approved on Commissioner Williams' motion; Commissioner Ramsey's second on a vote of 5-0-0. (Commission Kolb arrived after item 4. Commission White absent)

5. Invited Presentations

- a. Discussion and possible action on a potential amendment to the land development code, C20-2010-016, to clarify the definition and allowable placement of telecommunications towers and associated equipment.. (wp6)

Robert Heil with Planning and Development Review Department reported that in some situations, such as co-locating communication antennas on existing towers, the land use code addresses placement of communication antennas, but not associated equipment such as diesel power generators, Mr. Heil reported that the city is seeking to clarify guidelines for associated equipment.

Commissioner Ramsey suggested that if the equipment for co-location does not fit the definition of a tower than a special waiver or hearing should be required therefore you would need a conditional use permit.

Commissioner Rosenthal asked what sort of generator equipment would be permitted in residential zoning. Commissioner Rosenthal suggested not considering co-location equipment as a tower, but creating some sort of standard for what equipment would be allowed by the base zoning as an accessory use, and a process for conditional use.

6. Staff Briefings

- a. Legislative, Regulatory and Policy update. (Rondella Hawkins) (wp4)

Rondella Hawkins, Manager of the City of Austin Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs, Legislative, Regulatory and Policy updated included Senate Bill 1087 amending Senate Bill 5; House Bill 259; House Bill 2295; Senate Bill 980; House Bill 1688 and the Federal Community Access Preservation Act (CAP Act). <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/edims/document.cfm?id=152713>

- b. Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs) update. (John Speirs) (wp2)

John Speirs, Program Coordinator with the City of Austin Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs reported that the 2011 grant process is moving along and one 2011 GTOPs contract has been executed.

John Speirs requested that the Commission create a GTOPs Review Task Force at their June regular meeting. Any changes to the GTOPs process would then come before this Commission for adoption at their August or September 2011 regular meeting.

7. Old Business

- a. Discussion and possible action on Federal Community Access Preservation Act (CAP Act). (Rosenthal) (wp1)

After some discussion the Commission felt the resolution they passed March 9, 2011 on the CAP Act was applicable, therefore no action was taken.

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/edims/document.cfm?id=152284>

- b. Recommendation to City Council on the proposed contract award to Public Access Community Television, Inc. for public access television management services. (Rondella Hawkins) (wp1)

Motion to recommend to City Council that the contract for public access television management services be awarded to Public Access Community Television, Inc. was made on Commissioner Ramsey's motion; Commissioner Rosenthal's second on a vote of 6-0-0. (Commission White absent)

The TARA Office will go before City Council on June 9, 2011 seeking authorization for negotiation and execution of a contract to the recommended vendor.

8. New Business

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

Commissioner Quintanilla stated the East Austin Business Incubator has space available for training with IBM laptops if anyone wants to provide training.

Commissioner Rosenthal attended the National Conference on Media Reform in Boston. A lot of telecom policy issues have fallen under the media mantel, and were discussed. For more information visit conference.freepress.net.

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

Proposed items for the June 8, 2011 regular meeting agenda.

- o Legislative, Regulatory and Policy update. (Rondella Hawkins) (wp4)
- o Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs) update and formulation of GTOPs Review Task Force. (John Speirs) (wp2)
- o Update on City of Austin Residential Technology Survey (wp3).
- o City budget presentation
- o Presentation from past GTOPs recipients.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm