



**Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission
Regular Meeting** <http://www.austintexas.gov/cttc>

MINUTES

September 12, 2012

City Hall - Austin, Texas

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Current Commission Members:

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

The following items are posted for discussion and possible action.

1. Call to order – September 12, 2012 - 6:50 p.m.

Commission members in attendance:

Lemuel Williams, Jr., Chair
Chip Rosenthal, Vice Chair
Wendell Ramsey
Melvin White
Elizabeth Quintanilla

Commission member absent:

Kedron Touvell

City Staff in attendance:

Rondella Hawkins
Paul Lewis
John Speirs
Jane Reina

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.

Stefan Wray presented a video that showed channelAustin marketing public access.

4. Approval of minutes – August 8, 2012 Commission Regular Meeting.

The minutes from the Commission regular meeting of August 8, 2012 was approved on Commissioner Rosenthal's motion; Commissioner William's second on a vote of 5-0-0. (Commissioner Touvell absent)

5. Presentation from UpGradeUSA. (Jon Weisblatt)(wp3)

Jon Weisblatt, Founder & CEO, UpgradeUSA gave an overview of the company with a PowerPoint presentation. <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/edims/document.cfm?id=175998>

UpgradeUSA helps solve a pain point for a growing number of US Consumers: how to start building credit. The company addresses this through the online leasing of new and refurbished laptop and tablet computers to qualified customers, with each monthly payment reported to major U.S. credit bureaus.

6. Staff briefing on Legislative, Regulatory and Policy update. (Paul Lewis) (wp5)

Paul Lewis, Assistant Manager of the City of Austin Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs (TARA), Legislative, Regulatory and Policy update included Public, Education & Government (PEG) channel coordination; ChannelAustin PEG equipment purchases, Austin Independent School District PEG equipment purchases and FCC Notice of Inquiry status. To see the full report visit: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/edims/document.cfm?id=176038>

7. Strategic vision for community media capital investment. (Rondella Hawkins) (wp1)

Rondella Hawkins, City of Austin Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs, Officer reported that all companies providing cable service under the State Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority are required to remit one percent of gross revenues in PEG fees for capital expenditures related to the City's operations of its Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) Access channels.

Ms. Hawkins would like to explore a long-term approach to how the Austin cable access capital funds are allocated and distributed for Council's approval. The Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs Office is seeking input from the Austin Community Technology and

Telecommunications Commission to accomplish this and to bring forward to the City Council in the spring of FY 2013. She would like this to be part of the city budget process.

The Commission thinks this is a great idea but did not feel comfortable establishing a work group for this task at this time due to two vacant seats on the Commission.

Commissioner Ramsey would also like the Commission to hold a public hearing to gather information.

The TARA office will coordinate a brown bag lunch to discuss PEG funding allocation.

Citizen Communications

Stefan Wray, thinks this is a good idea. He would like to see a working group established to look at this and would like to have PEG entities involved in the process. Mr. Wray has been working on a cost benefit analysis for the PEG funds that he would like to present to the Commission at another time.

8. Staff update on Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs) and discussion and possible action on recommendations from the GTOPs Review Working Group (John Speirs) (wp2)

John Speirs, Program Coordinator with the City of Austin Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs presented the 2013 GTOPs Review Working Group Recommendations.

Motion to accept recommendations 1 through 5, 8 & 9 from the 2013 GTOPs Review Working Group and to further review recommendations 6 & 7 was made on Commissioner Rosenthal's motion; Commissioner Ramsey's second on a vote of 5-0-0. (Commissioner Touvell absent)

Please visit <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/edims/document.cfm?id=177078> for copy of recommendations.

9. Report from Open Government Working Group. (Commissioner Rosenthal) (wp4)

Commissioner Rosenthal reported on the recent activity by the Open Government Working Group. To see full report visit: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/edims/document.cfm?id=176037>

10. Report from Community Technology Assessment Working Group. (Commissioner Quintanilla) (wp3)

Commissioner Quintanilla reported that the Community Technology Assessment Working met September 13th and is now following up with Dr. Straubhaar. At this meeting the working group formed a letter of recommendation for Austin Free-Net's BTOP funding gap which resulted in them getting an increase of \$143,958 to the current \$53,816 contract funding.

The tech survey information is with the GTOPs information. She met with the STEM group and shared the tech survey results and the GTOPs program with them.

11. 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 she is participating more with Digital Media Council and the STEM Council. October 6th there is an event called Tech Chica put on by Latinitas. Also an event sponsored by Tech Execs will be held at IBM sometime in October.

Commissioner Rosenthal stated Drupal Day Austin is a free event September 15th

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

Proposed items for the October 10, 2012 regular meeting.

- o Election of Officers
- o Report from Open Government Working Group. (Commissioner Rosenthal) (wp4)
- o Staff update on Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs)
- o Discussion and possible action on additional recommendations from the GTOPs Review Working Group (John Speirs) (wp2)
- o Report from Community Technology Assessment Working Group. (Commissioner Quintanilla) (wp3)
- o Strategic vision for community media capital investment. (Rondella Hawkins) (wp1)

Proposed items for November 14, 2012 regular meeting and workplan retreat

- o Review the accomplishments of the Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission Workplan for FY 2012.
- o Develop the Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission Workplan for FY 2013
- o Adopt commission meeting schedule for 2013

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.