



April 2010 Meeting Minutes

Attending: CTTAB members: Ted Schmitt, (Chair), Will Pugh (Co-chair), Brian Hsi, Marina Martin, Daniel Carillo, Jr., Karen Manuel, Stacey Wedlake

Absent: Roni Ayalla, Eric Koester, Robert Dolin (All excused)

Staff: Bill Schrier, David Keyes, Tony Perez, Alice Lawson

Public: Ken Meyer, Dorene Cornwell

1) Introduction

- a. March minutes were approved. Marina made the motion, second by Stacey.
- b. Chair report:
 - i. Public access - Ted reviewed the status of the Public Access TV RFP process. Karen, Ted, Tony Perez, Ann Suter (former CTTAB and SCAN Board chair), and a current producer will be reviewing public access tv rfp's. Hope to announce successful bidder April 29th.
- c. Get Engaged Member Board recruitment. Recruitment is open now. Have about 14 Get Engaged members on city boards and commissions. This is a great opportunity to serve and learn more about the city. Roni Ayalla is the contact. Info session May 2nd, Applications due May 23rd

2) Public Comment: Dorene Cornwell: request that the participation tools the city is launching be accessible and usable by cell phones which would also reach some people without Internet. (Bill Schrier response: nothing planned now, good consideration for round 2 development).

3) Directors Report: Bill Schrier

- a. See attached report
- b. Budget – 3% department cuts requested

- c. Seattle Speaks Online (using Ideascale) currently scheduled to go live May 2nd though this may change
- d. Also covered: Code for America, Tech Matching Fund Grants Online launched, Caller-ID for employee phones implemented.
- e. Stats on Cable Office services: assisted with 511 issues, helped with 1,687 cable discounts.

4) Cable Office Report (See attached report)

- a. Alice Lawson introduced as new staff working part time. Working on getting involved in policy and regulatory background. Also will be working on apartment/condo and cable agreement education (June 9th event), web improvements, new visibility for office and cable customer rights. Will be working with the public access tv contract.
- b. Broadstripe illegal copyright fee discontinued, Broadstripe illegal Internet Tax refund being worked out (could involve refunds to subscribers and CTTAB help).
- c. Multiple dwelling units (MDU's) – City starting to advise building owners/managers about rights and opportunities to negotiate with cable companies for terms of entry to their buildings. Workshop on June 9th.
- d. Other items covered: Upgrading Technology for Underserved Neighbors (UPTUN) meeting attended by Cable Office staff, Comcast subscribership has gone down for the first time, though the franchise income has not gone down. The number of subscribers at lowest tier is up. Tony working on responses to FCC on Right of Way management (companies arguing that it is impeding broadband deployment).

5) Board Committees www.seattle.gov/cttab/committees.htm

Discussion of committees clarified who was on what committee and the committees, as well as three major strategic goal areas. The committees are for activities that support these goals. These members offered to serve as point people for the strategic goal areas:

- Broadband Deployment / Economic Development (Ted)
- Broadband Adoption/ Digital Inclusion (Stacey)
- Civic/ Public Engagement (Brian)

The Board decided to set aside time at a future meeting for a full discussion of what falls under the umbrella of digital inclusion.

6) Community Technology Report (20)

- a. Technology Matching Fund, deadline May 18th. Online Webgrants system was launched.

- b. Seattle Communities Online workshop and minigrants planning underway for community technical assistance project to help neighborhoods with online presence and participation. Staff will work with the CTTAB Public Engagement committee on this.
- c. Cable modem policy (discussion and advice) – David walked through how the program provides free Internet to community technology centers and to non-profits. Outreach for the program has been guided by general city priorities, but they are working to clarify policies on placement of the modems. Staff will come back with a revision to committee.

The current modem count for Comcast is at 233 of 500 modems and Broadstripe is at 23 of the 50 total available.

- d. Code for America update - Code fellows are working on an Engagement Tool Kit and an open source calendar application. They expect to have a pilot product in the next couple months looking for feedback.

7) Committee descriptions: For next meeting, work on committee descriptions.

There was a suggestion from Ted that Seattle Channel be contacted to consider doing a feature on CTTAB.

Meeting adjourned approximately 8:10 pm.

**Next meeting: May 10 - Seattle Municipal Tower 27th Floor Board Room (2750)
700 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104**

CTTAB
April 12, 2011
Office of Cable Communications, Director's Report

Broadstripe Copyright Fee: Broadstripe has discontinued charging a “copyright fee” and itemizing that charge on subscriber bills. According to Broadstripe the separate charge was valid because Broadstripe “contributes to a copyright fund that compensates writers and others who provide material to content providers”. The Cable Office ruled that the copyright fee was not legal and asked Broadstripe to cite its lawful authority for charging the fee if they disagreed with us. When Broadstripe was unable to produce a legal justification they decided to discontinue the practice.

Broadstripe Internet Tax: Broadstripe has submitted a refund request about \$400k in Internet taxes they collected in violation of federal law and remitted to the City. We are working with Broadstripe to return the money to affected subscribers. If not all the proceeds can be returned to subscribers the Cable Office and Broadstripe will negotiate some other considerations for residents of the Broadstripe franchise area. If so, we would like assistance from CTTAB in determining what those should be. If Broadstripe reneges on its commitment to return the tax to subscribers the Cable Office will assess liquidated damages and initiate other enforcement action.

MDU seminar: On June 9 the Cable Office will provide a free legal seminar about the FCC inside wiring rules as they relate to apartment buildings and condominiums. The purpose of the seminar is to advise apartment building owners and condo association presidents about their rights when entering into service contracts with cable operators. Because many are unaware of their rights in this matter they often sign long-term exclusive agreements with cable operators, limiting their options at a time of rapid advances in communications technology. Given that about 50% of Seattle residents live in apartment and condo buildings, the seminar could help many Seattle residents preserve their options for video and data services. We encourage CTTAB members to attend.

Upgrading Technology for Underserved Neighbors (UPTUN): Bill Schrier and Councilmember Bruce Harrell participated in a panel at the UPTUN meeting in the Central Area. They made brief comments and took questions from the audience regarding what could be done about the “digital redlining” in the Central area and north Beacon Hill where Broadstripe operates.

Public Access RFP: The RFP was published. Deadline for RFP submittals is April 15. We will be evaluating proposals on April 19 and 20. Interviews will be conducted the following week and we expect to announce the apparent successful bidder by April 29. I want to formally acknowledge and thank members of the CTTAB Public Access Committee for their continuing efforts to help the City arrive at a new model for Public Access in Seattle.

New Employee in the Cable Office: Alice Lawson has been hired as a Cable Franchise Analyst in the Office of Cable Communications. She will introduce herself to CTTAB members at the April Board meeting.

Comcast Cable Annual Report: Comcast submitted the Annual Report required under the franchise. Among the highlights:

- Several channels now available in 3D
- Mobile app for iPhone and iPad
- “Up to” 100 Mbps Internet service available (other packages include “up to” 12Mbps, 22Mbps and 50 Mbps for both residential and commercial accounts. All speeds quoted are downstream).
- As of the end of 2010 Comcast had 169,218 video subscribers, a net loss of 1505 subscribers from the previous year. 29,220 subscribed to the lowest level “Limited Basic” analog tier, about 1630 more than last year.

Recent FCC Action:

- 1) ROW NOI: The FCC issued a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) regarding rights of way practices as they pertain to telecommunications infrastructure. The decisions that the FCC makes on the basis of comments submitted could have significant adverse impacts on Seattle’s rights of way and land use authority. The Cable Office will be working through several national associations such as NATOA and USCM to file comments on behalf of local governments. The City may also file separate Seattle-specific comments.
- 2) FCC Commissioner Clyburn supports Municipal Broadband: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn has come forward with a strongly worded statement against proposed anti-municipal broadband legislation in North Carolina. In her message, the Commissioner states: “I remain concerned that when cities and local governments are prohibited from investing directly in their own broadband networks, citizens may be denied the opportunity to connect with their nation and improve their lives. Local economies will suffer as a result, and the communities’ ability to effectively address education, health, public safety, and other social issues will be severely hampered.”

Community Technology Report - April, 2011

From David Keyes

Brainstorm launched

See our April issue of Brainstorm at <http://seattle.gov/tech/brainstorm/>

Technology Matching Fund Online Grant Program Launched

We launched the online Tech Matching Fund application using the Webgrants system! Our 2011 Tech Matching Fund applicants have started using the system. Special thanks to Delia Burke who led this process. We held two grant workshops attended by about 55 people in total.

Tierra Madre Fund Gen7 Native Youth Classes, Dance & Technology Matching Fund

Tierra Madre's Technology and culture for Native American youth project demonstrated the results of their Tech Matching Fund project at a PowWow this week. 19 students learned xml and/or audio editing skills. Using these skills, they've created five different dance games that incorporate Native art and use an electronic dance pad (Ala dance dance revolution format) that they built.

Seattle Communities Online

The Southwest District Council, Rainier Chamber of Commerce, and SODO Business Association are all looking to improve their web sites and we met with them to help plan, share features of WordPress, and options for including city widgets (eg Trumba calendar).

Puget Sound Off

- Puget SoundOff did an interview on Kube 93's Tony B's Street Beat show.
- They are partnering with Upwardbound again. This summer's project will be an education campaign, hopefully with a tie into the Families and Education Levy.

Communities Connect Network BTOP Project

CCN is about to start equipment procurement for the public computer labs. An RFP for a vendor went out on April 11th. The project is also hiring a new project coordinator.

RecTech portal launched & Summer internships

The new RecTech web site has been launched on the Parks & Recreation web site. See <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/rectech/>. They are also starting to recruit for summer internships with more content focus this year. The internships will build skills in web design, hip hop production, video production and digital storytelling. Garfield Community Center's internship is "From Garden to Table: food-based filmmaking and digital design."

Seniors and Technology

We have also started info sharing meetings on training and seniors with Seattle Public Library, Parks, RecTech/ARC and the Mayors Office of Senior Citizens. One goal is joint publicity for programs. We are planning more detailed comparison of class outcomes and methods for engaging volunteers in training.

We are executing an MOU with the Human Services Department Mayor's Office of Senior Citizens for the staffing funds for the Seniors Training Seniors in Technology program. Goals include development of more volunteer trainers and sites to reach more seniors of color.

Resource found: Social Networking Privacy: How to be Safe, Secure and Social: <http://www.privacyrights.org/social-networking-privacy#types>