

# CTTAB

## December 12, 2006 Minutes

**InterConnection Computer Reuse and Learning Center**  
 2222 N Pacific St Seattle, WA 98103

<p><b>Present</b>          Leah Altaras          Charles Brennick          Maryann Budlong          Paul Green          Harry Hart, III          Richard Huff*          Tom Kee*          Damien Koemans          Huat Chye Lim          Jerry Lin          Nina Sanders  <b>Excused</b>          Bill Baron          Ann Robinson          Shivani Tejuja          *Awaiting confirmation</p>	<p><b>Absent</b>          Todd Achilles          Michael Davidson</p> <p><b>Visitors</b>          Tom Van Bronkhorst, CM Godden's Office</p> <p><b>Staff</b>          David Keyes          Jill Novik          Tony Perez</p>
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**1. Announcements; Agenda Approval; Review of November, 2006 Minutes; Report from the Chair :**

The November, 2006 minutes and December agenda were approved as written. Tom Van Bronkhorst from CM Godden's office and new Mayoral appointee Richard Huff were introduced. Van Bronkhorst noted that the confirmation hearings for the new and returning Council appointees will be held on January 10, 2007. Budlong issued the invitation to Van Bronkhorst to use CTTAB whenever CM Godden thinks they can be of assistance. It was agreed to have more frequent CTTAB reports back to Council, perhaps as often as quarterly.

**2. Committee Reports:**

Technology Matching Fund: A committee meeting will be held on December 19 to get ready for the annual cycle and to review CTTAB's points of involvement.

Civic Engagement: Keyes and Michael Davidson started discussions at a meeting at the UW on this topic.

**3. Cable Office:** Tony Perez and Jill Novik

Tony noted that the City had prevailed in a tax suit with Comcast. If the City's position continues to be upheld on Comcast's likely appeal, it would mean millions of dollars of revenue to the City over time.

The Millennium Digital Media negotiations have started. Hart asked how CTTAB can help and responded that the City would like to have CTTAB convene a public meeting in early 2007. CTTAB will also be asked to discuss the needs of the system for the needs assessment.

Novik noted that additional CTTAB applicants are still needed and requested members to help recruit new members to the Board. She also thanked outgoing members present, Huat Chye Lim, Paul Green, Damien Koemans, for their contributions, reserving the ability to call on them again for assistance.

(See attached for additional information.)

**4. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

#### Office of Broadband Communications, Director's Report

1. Cable price increases: Effective January 1, 2007, Comcast will raise the price of its most popular service tier from \$45.99 to \$49.25, an increase of approximately 7%. Since 2001 the rate for this service tier will have increased 59%. Given that some popular analog channels were moved to the digital tier during this period, Seattle subscribers are actually paying more for less. The City is preempted by federal law from regulating the price of this service tier.

The rate Comcast charges in Tacoma, where it must compete with Tacoma's Click! Network, will increase from \$32.99 to \$34.99. So Seattle Comcast customers will continue to pay a 41% premium relative to their neighbors in Tacoma largely because there is no competition in our market. Click! Network charges \$26.75 for the same service tier. Comcast will also increase its limited basic rate (its least expensive tier) from \$14.30 to \$14.80. This is a regulated rate and Comcast will have to file documents with the Cable Office. Cable Office staff will review the documents to ensure that the price increases are justified and consistent with formulas established by the Federal Communications Commission.

2. Upcoming Millennium Negotiations: We initiated our renewal negotiations with Millennium last week. As part of our ascertainment process, staff would like CTTAB to host a community meeting sometime in January or February most likely at the Garfield Community Center. The meeting will be similar to those conducted during the Comcast renewal. The goal is to identify the cable-related needs and interests of the community and to assess the level of satisfaction with services being provided by Millennium. We will provide CTTAB members with highlights of the recently concluded telephone survey concerning Millennium.

3. Council Presentation: At the request of Jean Godden's office Bill Schrier and Tony Perez will be updating the Utilities and Technology Committee on the status of fiber to the home deployments in the US and internationally.

4. Broadband Initiative: Staff is continuing work on gathering information necessary to develop a business case for a potential fiber to the home network.