

CTTAB

February 12, 2008 Minutes

2750 Seattle Municipal Tower
700 Fifth Avenue

<p>Present Peg Achterman Leah Altaras Fran Clifton Michael Davidson Jac de Haan Nancy Gohring Richard Huff Tom Kee Andrea Lee John Neuharth Oren Sreebny Ann Suter</p> <p>Excused Jessica Bukowski Jerry Lin</p>	<p>Absent Matt Towers</p> <p>Visitors Joel Belleza Ken Meyer Stephanie Song</p> <p>Staff Gary Gibson David Keyes Jill Novik Tony Perez Bill Schrier</p>
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1. Announcements; Agenda Approval; Review of January, February 2008 Minutes;
The February agenda was approved as written, but January minutes were postponed from consideration.

2. Gary Gibson, Director, Office of Electronic Communications

Gibson discussed the functions under his purview, including the SeattleChannel, awarded the best Municipal channel in the country by NATOA and in 2006 seattle.gov website, was named Best of the Web. The City's commitment to community technology and bridging the digital divide is as good as any in the country. The web and TV are working together with lots of synergies, and he is excited about the future. Sreebny noted that although Bill Schrier gives periodic updates on the division, it would be beneficial if Gibson could do the same.

As a follow up to the January meeting, Chair Huff asked about the decision for video distribution to be in Real format. Gibson said that they are considering a change to Flash, but the history has been that Real, as a Seattle company, has been helpful in costs and technical support and was a good place to start. The City is now looking at the customer experience, adding the flash is on 98% of the world's computers and is faster and smoother.

In response to a question about archiving, Gibson said that content stays on the Channel for about three years.

3. Report from the Chair: Huff asked everyone to put the April 14 retreat on their calendars for an early start: there will be a tour of the Seattle Channel at 3:30, followed by meetings with CM Harrell and Mayor's Counsel Regina LaBelle. The group will meet back at SMT at 5:00 pm.

Outreach to Council: Huff noted that in the past CTTAB has contacted individual Council members to offer assistance on technology issues. The Board discussed the issue but did not take action.

Podcasting: The committee will draft a response for members to consider before the next meeting.

4. Public Comment

Joel Belleza noted that he is interested in civic engagement.

5. CTO Report – Bill Schrier

See att.

6. Committee Reports

There were no committee reports at this time. It was noted that the committees will likely realign following the retreat.

7. Cable Office: Tony Perez

Legislative update: the state legislature is considering a bill that would establish a fund for community technology. If CTTAB wishes to take a position, they could send a letter to the sponsors.

Huff noted that Comcast billboards state that their system is all fiber optic and wondered at the purpose of this statement (which is not correct). It was suggested that it is likely in response to Verizon's FIOS system, which is fiber to the home.

Digital transition update: The Seattle Channel is working on a PSA that should be available soon. There will also be a brown bag information session on April 22 from 12-1 in the City Council chambers, in which Councilmembers discuss the transition with broadcasters, retailers, and cable operators.

8. Community Technology – David Keyes

See attached.

9. Board Business

Ann Suter said that SCAN is starting a community advisory board and asked for CTTAB to send information to people they know who might be interested. The task of the advisory board, which will meet twice a year, is to be a sounding board for the SCAN board's programming and channel plans. The first meeting will be April 9. If interested, please let Ann know.

Tony commented that he is working to a Cisco conference on how technology can be used to mitigate global warming. He wondered if this is something CTTAB wants to address.



10. Adjourn The meeting was adjourned at 7:50

City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Department of Information Technology

Bill Schrier, Director and Chief Technology Officer

Citizens' Telecommunications and Technology Advisory Board Chief Technology Officer's Report

12 February 2008

ELECTED OFFICIAL NEWS

- We successfully moved technology supporting the Emergency Operations Center over the weekend of 1/25/2008. This included existing and new desktop computers, telephones and radios, as well as activation of video networking in the new EOC. The new EOC is at Fifth and Washington and includes a state of the art video switch and video capabilities. The Mayor will hold a press conference in the new EOC on February 27th.

CABLE AND BROADBAND NEWS

- Tony Perez and Jill Novik will present more details to CTTAB.
- Legislation to lift the proviso on funding for Fiber Broadband is written and will be forwarded to the Mayor's office shortly. We anticipate presenting this legislation at the Energy and Technology City Council Committee in late February or early March.
- KIRO-TV news did a spot on digital transition with our staff on January 30. The video can be streamed from:
<http://www.kirotv.com/money/15179535/detail.html> .

- Tony will report on Millennium (Broadstripe) customer service issues.

SEATTLE CHANNEL NEWS

- *City Inside Out*, with host C. R. Douglas, has recently examined homelessness (broadcasting from a location in the wilds of Queen Anne),

the Port of Seattle financial problems / state audit and police accountability.

- *City Inside/Out: Council Edition.* The SEATTLE CHANNEL launched a new monthly edition of *City Inside/Out* with C.R. Douglas and a special focus on the Seattle City Council. This month's guests are Council members Sally Clark, Tom Rasmussen and Tim Burgess.
- Mayor's Climate Action Now Initiative. We're producing four videos on how to winterize your home and duplicating 10,000 copies for distribution at the Seattle Home Show,
- NEW SERIES: *American Podium*: In February - Bestselling author and veteran broadcaster Tom Brokaw talks about his new book *Boom! Aftershocks of the Sixties* on the new SEATTLE CHANNEL series *American Podium*.

WEB WWW.SEATTLE.GOV NEWS

- The web stats for January 2008 are available at <http://seattle.gov/pan/stats.htm>. Total page views in January were 12,882,266 and the total sessions were 1,751,093 which is an increase of approximately 4.5% over last year.
- My Neighborhood Map now has 2007 crime statistics.
- We have created or updated the following websites:
 - Immigrants & Refugees Advisory Board:
<http://www.seattle.gov/landRboard/>
 - Boards and Commissions Portal:
<http://www.seattle.gov/html/CITIZEN/boardsportal.htm>
 - Black History Celebration:
<http://www.seattle.gov/blackhistory/>
 - Seattle OnHold: the latest mix, #9, is live on Seattle.gov at <http://www.seattle.gov/onhold/> and on the City's phone systems.
- The website Seattlest.com loves Seattle.gov: "We've spent plenty of time on other government sites at the local, state and federal levels and believe us, Seattle's is by far the easiest to navigate." Read their rave at http://seattlest.com/2008/01/15/were_not_afraid.php
- We've launched a website on the digital television transition at www.seattle.gov/digitaltv .
- The Seattle Police Department web redesign goes live Friday at <http://www.seattle.gov/police/>. After the SPD launch only SCL remains to be completed in the comprehensive redesign of Seattle.gov.
- Nate Eckstine on our Citywide Web Team was crunching web stats recently and came up with this observation: On Google's search

engine, Seattle has 216 million hits and Heaven has 212 million hits - or, as Nate says, "Seattle is slightly more popular than heaven."

COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY NEWS

- David Keyes will present more details to CTTAB.
- We are offering \$175,000 in TMF grants this year. We issued a press release announcing grant workshops to help organizations apply for the grants.
- Technology Matching fund workshops are in progress.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OPERATIONS NEWS

- GroupWise to Exchange Migration (GEM) Project. The City is presently planning to move from use of Novell's GroupWise product to Microsoft Outlook/Exchange for electronic mail and collaboration. Deputy DoIT Director Erin Devoto is leading the project. A report about schedule, costs and issues will be delivered to the Seattle City Council late in March. After the report is delivered, the CTO will ask the Council to release about \$2.5 million budgeted in 2008 for purchase of Office 2007 licenses. Office 2007 includes the Outlook client, a prerequisite for GEM. The GEM project would be separately budgeted in 2009-2010 and require separate approval by the City Council.
- We're getting ready to roll out internal Wi-Fi service in select City conference rooms. We did a small-scale pilot in January to test procedures we'll use to upgrade employee laptops to work on the network.

Community Technology Report - February, 2008

Interconnections Open House Computer Reuse and Learning Center
Come learn how to refurbish computers for schools and non-profits, meet their volunteers and staff, take a tour of the facility. When: **Saturday, February 16, 10-3**, 2222 N. Pacific St. Seattle. Interconnections is run by former CTTAB member Charles Brennick. Also see the recent KIRO feature:
www.kirotv.com/video/15249035/index.html?taf=sea

City Council community technology priorities

"Ensure equal access to technology and pioneer new ways to engage the community through technology" This is listed in the City Council 2008 priorities under the theme *Invest public resources fairly and effectively*.
(http://seattle.gov/council/issues/2008themes_and_priorities.htm)

Brainstorm

The February issue of Brainstorm includes articles on CTTAB member Jac de Haan, Somali Community Services of Seattle, Councilmember Bruce Harrell, updates on legislation, Matching Fund info and more.

www.seattle.gov/tech/brainstorm

2008 Bill Wright Technology Matching Fund (seattle.gov/tech/tmf)

March 10th deadline.

Approximately 35 organizations were represented at two Technology Matching Fund Workshops held this past week. Thanks to Michael Davidson, Andrea Lee and Fran Clifton for participating. GovTech picked up the press release: (<http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/259936>) but we haven't seen anything in local papers. Seattle Channel is producing short features on a couple projects to help promote the fund.

Matching Fund Project Accomplishments

Youth Media Institute (YMI) and Somali Community Services completed their 2007 Matching Fund projects. See Brainstorm for Somali Community Services' report. With a grant of \$13,300 for equipment and staffing, YMI taught 10 low income high school students media technologies and digital storytelling techniques to give voice to their experiences, families and cultures and to encourage dialog about the changing face of their community. Graduates from the program then served as peer mentors in the White Center area, ultimately training a total of 50 youth. As a result of the project, the students increased their knowledge of media justice and democracy and learned skills in graphic design, camera techniques, video editing, and audio recording and editing. Seattle Community Access Network (SCAN) provided their studio and some assistance for the project.

Community Technology state legislation passes committee, then dies

Senate Bill 6775 proposed establishing a state community technology grant program, to be funded by tax credits provided to telecommunications companies that contributed to the fund. This bill passed out of the economic development committee, but failed when it was not scheduled for a hearing by the Ways and Means Committee, chaired by Sen. Prentiss. A number of community technology supporters contacted her leading up to the potential hearing dates. This bill was also supported by the Washington Software Association (WSA). Though not successful, this raised awareness in Olympia and was a good start to encouraging greater state support for local programs. Members of the Communities Connect Network, who helped encourage this bill, will be strategizing for the fall session. It would be helpful to know if CTTAB wants to participate.

Two other bills (HB 2521 and HB 2559) related to broadband planning and mapping, and which include provisions for technology literacy and a state directory of community technology programs, both passed out of committee but met similar fates at the Appropriations Committee level. For details of these bills, visit <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo>

CTTAB
February 12, 2008
Office of Cable Communications, Director's Report

1. Digital transition: Jill Novik was prominently featured in a spot on KIRO-TV news on January 30. The video can be streamed from:

<http://www.kirotv.com/money/15179535/detail.html>

2. RFP Update: We submitted legislation to secure funds for Broadband RFP development.

3. Staff participated in interviews for consultants to perform the UTC's broadband mapping study.

4. CSPAN-2 to digital: We have received many complaints about Comcast's decision to move CSPAN-2 to the digital tier which requires regular cable subscribers to pay an extra \$1 per month to be able to view the channel using a digital converter. We don't believe that we can do anything on the regulatory front but we will be discussing the matter with Comcast.

5. NATOA: We are participating in a committee of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) that is developing a set of Broadband policy principles that will define a competing vision of a broadband future that takes the public interest into account.

6. Broadstripe: reported that it failed to meet its obligations to answer customer calls within 30 seconds at least 90% of the time as measured on a quarterly basis. The Office of Cable Communications has assessed liquidated damages.

7. Cable Modem Tax: The WA state Supreme Court heard arguments about whether the City's telecommunications utility tax can be applied to revenues generated from the provision of cable modem service provided by cable operators. A decision is expected in by summer.

8. We will provide a brief Legislative update