

# CTTAB

## February 10, 2009 Minutes

2750 Seattle Municipal Tower  
700 Fifth Avenue

<p><b>Present</b>          Fran Clifton          Nancy Gohring          Richard Huff          Tom Kee          Will Little          Karen Manuel          Marcos Martinez          Stuart Maxwell          John Neuharth          Will Pugh          Joann Reiter          Ted Schmitt          Ann Suter</p>	<p><b>Excused</b>          Jac DeHaan          Oren Sreenby</p> <p><b>Absent</b>          Rob Holland</p> <p><b>Staff</b>          David Keyes          Jill Novik          Tony Perez          Bill Schrier</p> <p><b>Visitors</b>          Ken Meyer</p>
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**1. Call to order and Report of the chair: Richard Huff chair** – called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. The January minutes were adopted as amended to reflect that Richard Huff was not present. The agenda was approved with the amendment that Bruce Blood would not attend. Report of the chair is attached.

**2. Public Comment**

Ken Meyer discussed the digital transition.

**3. Chief Technology Office Report: Bill Schrier**

See attached report. Schrier also noted that Police Chief Gil Kerlikowski is rumored to be leaving Seattle for either the Department of Justice or Homeland Security.

**4. Committee Reports:**

Technology Matching Fund: volunteer reviewers are signed up and Fran and Jac attended the workshop at Miller Community Center. She noted that about 10-15 people attended. She added that with more funding this year, the committee is expecting more applications. The committee has not yet decided whether to interview all applicants. Applications are due March 9, with rating to be completed in early April. The committee will present its recommendations to CTTAB at the April meeting and then to Council likely in early June. Contracts will be written following the Council vote on the allocations.

Applicants are eligible to receive TMF more than once and last year, more than one third were previous recipients. Last year, the average award was \$14,000 with a maximum possible for 2008 and 2009 of \$20,000.

Puget Sound Off: Martinez reported that he had attended a meeting of a subcommittee on civic youth engagement and curriculum development with the YMCA and UW Communications Department. The group is trying to figure out how to get more students involved and to make the site more youth user friendly. Currently, there is a lack of coordination and clarification is needed on the vision and mission of the youth portal. The group will continue to meet monthly on these issues and on what various roles are. He added that the technology subcommittee could potentially assist with the Drupal tool development.

Keyes noted that Puget Sound Off is strengthening its partnerships with One Economy and the Mayor's Youth Council and. He added that the Youth Council was given five surplus laptops for blogging and they have started contributing to the site.

Residential Survey: All the data are in and are being analyzed. Because of costs, the number of focus groups may need to be scaled back. Keyes will schedule a meeting with the committee in the next few weeks to discuss the data and focus groups.

Broadband: Huff criticized Comcast's new bandwidth caps.

E-democracy: Pugh will send everyone the preliminary draft report on e-voting.

WiFi: The committee met on January 17. Tech services is starting to work on Wi-Fi for Seattle Center, with physically wired backhaul here. Schrier noted that Forbes listed Seattle as the number one wired city in America, with one Wi-Fi hot spot per person.

My Neighborhood Map: The committee indicated that they are still interested in the project.

#### **5. Cable Office Report: Tony Perez**

See attached report. Also, the Board's 2009 retreat will be held March 10 from 3:00-8:00 p.m.

#### **6. Community Technology Report: David Keyes**

See attached report.

#### **7. Board Business:**

Karen Manuel presented information on House Bill 1522, which would permit broader recycling of computers and permit broader access to computers for low income families. Recent CTTAB member Charles Brennick has asked CTTAB for its support of the legislation.

*Action: authorize Karen Manuel to write a letter of support of HB 1522 for signature by Chair Richard Huff. The motion was adopted unanimously.*

**8. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.



City of Seattle

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Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Department of Information Technology

**Bill Schrier, Director and Chief Technology Officer**

## **Chief Technology Officer's Report**

10 February 2009

### **HEADLINE NEWS AND ELECTED OFFICIAL NEWS**

- **Digital TV Transition.** The Fedgov delayed the date for the transition until June. Some stations have transitioned and others will still transition in February. See attached for a complete list of plans for Washington analog stations.
- **Energy and Technology Committee.** DoIT staff and I briefed the Energy and Technology Committee on 29 January about 2008 DoIT accomplishments, the Digital TV Transition, Broadstripe customer service and bankruptcy and technology strategic planning. Barb Graff, director of the City's Office of Emergency Management and I briefed the Committee about Strategic Policy for Communications.

### **CABLE AND BROADBAND NEWS**

- Broadstripe, despite its Chapter 7 bankruptcy, has issued checks to the City for franchise and other fees it owes through 31 December.
- Broadstripe is raising its rates.
- A Broadband project will be included in the City's projects for the national Economic Stimulus program.
- Comcast will eliminate analog cable-casting of channels 30-74 later this year.
- See Tony Perez' report for more news.

### **SEATTLE CHANNEL NEWS**

Recent new programming includes:

- *Ask the Mayor* is being broadcast live at 7:00 PM tonight.
- *City Inside/Out*: a conversation with new state schools Superintendent Randy Dorn. We also talk with state representatives Skip Priest (R-Federal Way) and Ross Hunter (D-Medina) about their wide-ranging proposal to overhaul K-12 funding in Washington state. In-studio, a panel of education experts weigh in. Confirmed guests include Chris Korsmo, Executive Director of the League of Education Voters; Elizabeth Beck, President of the Shoreline Education Association; and Marguerite Roza, Ph.D., a research associate professor at the University of Washington's College of Education.

### **WEB [WWW.SEATTLE.GOV](http://www.seattle.gov) NEWS**

- My Neighborhood Map redeveloped in Microsoft Virtual Earth is now live: <http://web1.seattle.gov/MNM/>
- Seattle Transportation Traveler's Information is now live using Microsoft Virtual Earth: <http://web1.seattle.gov/sdot/travelers/>
- We have had over 12,000 calendar views on the Seattle.Gov Citywide Calendar, and over 27,000 calendar views on the Seattle.Gov Weekend Events Calendar, since launching the new "Trumba" calendaring software in early January.
- The city is hosting the web site for the City of Music initiative: <http://www.seattlecityofmusic.org>

## COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY NEWS

- The Digital Inclusion Summit was held January 27 and 28.
- We are holding workshops for the Tech Matching Fund
- See David Keyes' report for more information and detail.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OPERATIONS NEWS

- Many City employees watched the Inauguration on cable TV and via the Internet on 20 January. The City's Internet connection was oversubscribed and slowed for several hours that morning.
- We moved 177 DoIT employees to Office 2007 in January. This is the first phase of a set of projects which will move all 10,500 City employees to Office 2007 and then to Microsoft Exchange/Outlook for electronic mail by mid-2010.
- MPC (formerly Micron PC), based in Boise, is bankrupt. MPC purchased Gateway computers' government business last year. For about 8 years, up until January, 2008, the City government standard for desktop and laptop computers was Gateway. The City now purchases HP computers, but about 75% of our desktop and laptop computers are still Gateway, so getting warranty service and replacement parts is a concern. We may end up contracting with a third party, at our expense, to get such support.

Bill Schrier's Twitter: [www.twitter.com/billschrier](http://www.twitter.com/billschrier)

Bill Schrier's blog: [blog.chiefseattlegeek.com](http://blog.chiefseattlegeek.com)

## CTTAB

February 9, 2009

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

#### Broadstripe:

- Broadstripe is behind on its obligation to provide Video on Demand service and more HD programming.
- Broadstripe notified us in writing that they will raise their rates in March and will notify customers of the rate increase by mail. Limited Basic Rate is currently \$19.95/mo and will increase to \$21.28/mo. Basic Cable Rate is currently \$53.99 and will increase to \$57.99/mo. There has been no charge for a Modem/Phone Device, but there will now be a charge of \$5.00/mo per device.
- We learned that in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2008 Broadstripe failed to meet the 90% standard for calls answered within 30 seconds. They came in at 87%.
- We continue to monitor bankruptcy proceedings

#### Comcast:

- Analog Cutoff: Channels 32-71 on Comcast will be all digital starting in August. At least 50,000 subscribers will require a cable digital converter.
- The draft Technical audit suggests that among other things Comcast could improve its node/home ratio within Seattle.
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#### Broadcast Analog Cutoff:

Congress delayed the digital TV transition until June 12.

#### Legislative Analysis

##### State:

- SB 5241 – PEG
- SB 2586 – IP

- HB – 1700 Public Infrastructure

Federal:

We are currently comparing the differences in the Broadband provisions of the House stimulus bill and the Senate version. The Senate version is more generous and provides 9.2 billion in funding for Broadband. Of that, amount up to \$8.19 billion is for competitive grants to states and local governments and Indian tribes, nonprofits, corporations, and public-private partnerships to accelerate broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas.

## **Community Technology Update: February 2009**

### Residential Technology Survey

We have completed the phone surveys and our consultant, Liz Moore, has started analyzing the data. Our budget for the contracts was not carried over, so we may have to scale back the focus groups we planned on.

### State Broadband Deployment, Adoption and Digital Inclusion legislation

There have been bills introduced in the House (1698, 1699, 1700, 1701) and in the Senate (5916 and 5917) that seek to foster broadband deployment and adoption and place management for this with the Department of Information Services. In the Senate, there are hearings this Thursday at 10 for 5916 and 5917. SB 5916 provides a framework for continuing the Community Technology Opportunity Program (similar to our Technology Matching Fund.) SB 5917 would require mapping of local public infrastructure and private infrastructure, with no mechanism to pay local jurisdictions for the work.

HB 1522 would close a gap in e-cycling that now limits the non-profit recyclers to refurbish computers to distribute to low-income families. Last year approximately 200 computers were distributed to Seattle families and non-profits by Interconnections; this would reduce the availability of computers for these purposes.

DoIT is working on analysis of these bills and providing comments to our state lobbyist. The state Communities Connect Network is providing comments as well. The highest digital inclusion priority is continuation of the Community Technology Opportunity Program, which resulted in about \$155,000 in grants to Seattle organizations last year as well as providing training to a number of community technology center staff.

See the bills at a <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/default.aspx>.

### Where Broadband, policy, and Puget Sound Off meet...

Bruce, a young adult who uses the Metrocenter YMCA computer lab and has no computer home testified in Olympia at the House technology committee about the need to help families get broadband, computers and training. He then wrote a blog on Puget Sound Off about his first experience talking to legislators. <http://pugetsoundoff.org/blog/bruce-g-nice/3979>

### Mayors Youth Council

We provided 5 laptops for the Mayors Youth Council to use for their policy projects this year. David met with Andres Mantilla and Jenny Frankl to chart the current Council's work using Puget Sound Off and plan for enhanced integration next year. So far, Youth Council members have blogged about their meetings, posted a poll on perceptions of the police and blogged about issues of weight and health and posted video of a discussion held on police/youth relations. Thanks to Mike Wong in the warehouse for the surplus computers and to Derrick Hall for configuring them in record time.

### Tech Matching Fund workshop

We held outreach workshops promoting the 2009 grant round on Wed, Feb 4th and 7th. Thanks to CTTAB members who helped out. There were 38 attendees at the first and about 15 at the second. We provided ASL (American Sign Language) interpretation services for one workshop for a prospective grantee.

### Brainstorm

The February edition of Brainstorm was launched. Articles include: My Neighborhood Maps upgrade, Security Tip on the Valentine's Day Worm, Seattle.gov web stats and the pothole reporting site, Digital TV Transition news, Techtip on defining broadband, Grants available, Communities Connect Network work on the broadband adoption legislation, Tech Matching Fund promotion, Multilingual Lab Rules Available Online, Digital Inclusion Summit Recap, Federal Recovery Bill and broadband, Puget Sound Off contest winners, and Calendar items (incl. DoN workshops and a Boomer Volunteer Engagement Webinar).

### Digital Inclusion Summit

We had a very successful first Pacific Northwest Digital Inclusion Summit with approximately 125 people participating. This included a policy meeting attended by representatives from Sen. Cantwell's office, Microsoft, T-Mobile, Communities Connect Network and others. There was also a housing providers meeting with great interest in technical assistance and policy that supported ensuring that broadband went out to affordable housing tenants. There was a great deal of discussion about the challenges of increasing numbers of clients coming into computer labs.

From this we are following up with One Economy about partnerships in four areas: Youth Programs (linking their Digital Connectors Program with Puget Sound Off and Seattle youth programs), TV (their family help videos on pic.tv with seattle.gov and Seattle Channel, Housing (tech assistance and policy to foster Internet, hardware and training for tenants of affordable housing), and broadband adoption policy (linking their national advocacy with our local work). We're also helping to post presentations from the Summit.

### Extending city purchasing power to help with community computers: Eritrean Community Center

Ten computers for the Eritrean Community Center have just shipped from HP. These were purchased by them under our arrangement to extend the state/city HP vendor contract. Derrick provided technical assistance and helped them through a cumbersome purchasing process.

### **Digital Television Transition**

Congress recently passed legislation delaying the “drop dead date” for Digital Television Transition, originally scheduled for February 17, 2009. Stations are free to transition to DTV prior to the new June 12, 2009 date, but won’t be required to transition until the new date. It is difficult to predict whether the delay will help or hurt the transition. A delay, in itself, doesn’t change the potential disenfranchisement of some citizens. Debate over the delay cited the fact that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration essentially ran out of funds to administrate the digital converter box coupon program. How much money? \$1.3 billion had been allocated; another \$650 million approved in the most recent Senate stimulus package. That’s an allocation shift of \$11.46 to \$17.17 per US household for the coupon program. Obviously not all households will require the coupons – I just used the total US household number for reference purposes.

### **Pacific Northwest Digital Inclusion Summit**

I was able to attend the morning half of the January 28<sup>th</sup> Digital Inclusion Summit at the Fairmount Olympic Hotel. It was incredibly encouraging to see so many community organizers excited about the transformative capacities of the Internet. I only wish that the interest in bringing broadband to rural and lower socio-economic populations could expand to interest in bringing broadband to the entire community, regardless their housing density or socio-economic status.