

**UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
CITY HALL 8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301
SEPTEMBER 28, 2010 – 6:30 P.M.**

Cumulative
January 2010-
December 2010

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Bunney Brenneman, Chair	P	6	0
Robert Cole, Vice Chair	P	5	1
Maria Canady (6:40)	P	5	1
L. Thomas Chancey	A	3	3
Don Larson	P	6	0
Dr. Magdalene Lewis	A	0	6
Ruchel Louis	A	4	1
Terri Murru	P	5	1
Frances Smoot	P	3	3
Stephanie Toothaker (7:03)	P	4	1
Clare Vickery	A	0	1
Jay Weiss	A	4	2

Staff

Hal Barnes, Engineering Design Manager
Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Appointed members to the Board: 12
Needed to constitute a quorum: 7

Communications to City Commission

None.

I. Call to Order

Chair Brenneman called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll was taken and it was noted a quorum was not present.

III. Self-Introductions

Chair Brenneman noted no introductions were necessary.

IV. Minutes of June 22, 2010 Meeting
Meeting of July 27, 2010 officially cancelled – no minutes
Meeting of August 24, 2010 cancelled, Election Day – no minutes

As a quorum was not present, the minutes of the June 22, 2010 meeting could not yet be approved.

V. New Business

- **Complete Presentation of U-Verse Services**

Chair Brenneman introduced Steve Solomon, representing Community Services from AT&T.

Maria Canady joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Mr. Solomon showed a PowerPoint presentation on AT&T's U-verse services, which he characterized as "the next generation of technology for home entertainment." The system combines television, high-speed internet, and digital telephone services for the home.

He explained that what makes U-verse different is the platform that makes "100% digital programming" with up to 390 television channels, delivered over an IP-based network. AT&T is the only national carrier to deliver "100% IP TV and 100% digital." Features include picture-to-picture programming, which can work on any television, and U-bar, which allows for updates on sports, stocks, weather, and traffic while watching television.

Mr. Solomon noted that many applications that normally appear on computers can appear on television, including games such as solitaire and Sudoku. Remote programming can be done through either dial-up or high-speed internet use. U-verse also provides a "total home DVR" that allows users to record and play back programs in any room using only one DVR. He noted that these features are "not a function of the TV, but a function of how we deliver it."

Other features include a video-on-demand library with access to both free and premium channels based on the services to which the viewer subscribes. DVR recordings may be scheduled from anywhere the user has internet access. Yellow Pages on TV are also available, and programming guides allow the user to search programs up to two weeks in advance. He described the various packages available to subscribers, which include the ability to subscribe to AT&T's high-speed internet and telephone services as well.

Chair Brenneman requested further explanation of the speeds available. Mr. Solomon said currently, AT&T's top speed is "6.50 download." U-verse will enable this to increase to "12, 18, and 24 mgs download," which greatly increases the speed.

The digital platform also allows AT&T to offer digital voice-over IP, which provides savings over traditional telephone service. He noted that customers who are happy with their traditional service may retain it if they want. The new service offers several advanced features, such as anonymous call rejection, call history, and caller ID on the television screen. All digital services are billed on the same platform, so the customer receives only one bill.

He concluded that U-verse offers "a total solution" by combining home television, internet, telephone, and mobility under a single technology.

Ms. Toothaker joined the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Chair Brenneman noted that most of the questions from residents involve U-family. Mr. Solomon said this service offers roughly 60-80 channels, including local channels, several family channels, and DVR service. He clarified that the Family Basic package does not offer "restricted" programming, but children's and family programming.

He explained that U-basic offers "the local channel lineup," or approximately 20 channels, for \$19/month. U-100 is the "basic 100-plus channel digital lineup." All programming allows users to set restrictions on programming with a PIN code, which lets them block based upon programming type, level, hour, or channel. This can be done on the television or remotely. An information channel explains how to use this and other services, or the technicians who perform the installation can go over the features for the user.

He discussed some of the available service packages with Chair Brenneman, including costs. It was noted that digital voice services can only be used on up to two telephone lines.

Mr. Larson asked when U-verse service expects to complete its rollout. Vic Beninate, representing AT&T, said this is "ongoing" and there is no final date; it will be "a number of years before all the areas are served."

Chair Brenneman thanked Mr. Solomon for his presentation.

The following item was taken out of order on the Agenda.

IV. Minutes of June 22, 2010 Meeting

Meeting of July 27, 2010 officially cancelled – no minutes
Meeting of August 24, 2010 cancelled – Election Day – no minutes

Motion made by Vice Chair Cole, seconded by Mr. Larson, to approve the June 22, 2010 minutes. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Chair Brenneman stated she would like to thank the citizens who served as election poll workers and/or poll watchers.

- **Commission Remote Attendance Resolution**

Mr. Barnes explained that the City Commission has passed a Resolution allowing Board and Committee members who are not physically able to attend a meeting to participate via conference call. He provided copies of the Resolution, noting that it does not apply for all circumstances, but only for physical disabilities, such as medical issues.

The room in which a meeting is held must be able to provide conference call capability. Members requesting permission to join via teleconference are given an access number and code.

He pointed out that participation via teleconference does not count toward a quorum, and individuals must provide written notice that they are unable to attend seven days in advance of the meeting. In the event of a “true emergency,” notification is accepted up to two days in advance. The time frame is necessary due to the setup of equipment and processing of the request to IT.

Members of the Board or Committee must vote at the beginning of the meeting on whether or not to accept the individual’s participation. The member attending telephonically may listen to and participate in the meeting, but they may not vote on any actions the group may take.

Chair Brenneman asked what might happen if an individual did not have sufficient time to provide notice. Mr. Barnes said one day’s notice is insufficient to request conference call setup. He explained that the intent of the Resolution is to allow members who cannot physically travel to the meeting to participate. He emphasized the need for “as much advance notice as possible.”

He noted that while a member attending telephonically is not counted toward a quorum, he or she is counted as present at the meeting.

VI. Continuing Business

- **Status of SE 2nd Street Undergrounding between SE 2nd Street and SE 3rd Avenue**

Mr. Barnes said this project came before the City Commission at the September 21 meeting as part of the Consent Agenda. The Item was discussed due to budget concerns. The City Commission decided to defer the Item for approval until the 2011-2012 budget discussions have taken place. The project will not be done under the 2010-2011 budget.

FPL has been advised of this development, and has responded that they do not feel the trees are in jeopardy for the next one to two years. The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has also been notified to determine if there is a reason the project should be completed sooner. The project will be brought back before the City Commission in approximately one year.

VII. Good of the Committee

Nothing at this time.

VIII. Announcements

- **UAC Next Regular Meeting**

Chair Brenneman pointed out that the next meeting will be held on October 28, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. rather than October 19 as indicated on the Agenda.

She noted that an audio recording of Mr. Solomon's presentation will be available. Interested members and/or homeowners' associations may contact Chair Brenneman for further information.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by K. McGuire, Prototype, Inc.]