Memorandum
Manager's Office

TO: Telecommunications and Technology Advisory Commission

FROM: _____
Peter J. Vadopalas, Assistant to the Village Manager

DATE: October 12, 2016

SUBJECT: September 27, 2016 Telecommunications and Technology Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

Commission Meeting Called to Order:
Vice-Chair Kleinstein called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. in Conference Room E at Skokie Village Hall.

Present: Douglas Gordon, Ken Grossman, Howard Kleinstein, Frances Roehm, Evan Jones Thorne, staff liaison Peter Vadopalas
Absent: Sam Corcione (Excused)

I. Welcome
Vice-Chair Kleinstein welcomed all Commissioners at 7:10 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the August 30 meeting were approved unanimously.

III. Discussion of 2016 Programming

Peter Vadopalas updated the Commission on the planned solar energy program to be hosted with the Illinois Solar Energy Association (ISEA) on November 12, and confirmed the presenter's attendance and Library's preparation to host the program. Vadopalas inquired if Commissioners would be available to represent the Commission and to distribute Village information to attendees. Commission participation will be discussed at the October meeting.

Commissioner Jones-Thorne led a discussion of the Village-organized science fair concept, and reported that the planning sub-committee concluded that the scope of such a project, anticipated costs, and lack of immediate support from local school districts leads to a recommendation to postpone further consideration of the science fair as envisioned. The sub-committee suggested that a Village award program be considered to support existing science fairs instead. A local manufacturer should be identified to make the award and the recognition of award recipients at a Village Board meeting would be considered. The consensus of the Commission was to proceed as

recommended. The award program will be an agenda topic for future Commission meetings.

Peter Vadopalas reported that he has met with several local technology experts who have offered to assist their expertise in the planning of an April "maker" program. Vadopalas reported that he will have follow-up discussions, and will make an effort to have a concrete list of suggested topics and speakers at the October meeting for consideration and discussion.

V. Staff Update

Peter Vadopalas reported that the Village received notice of pending transfer of ownership of RCN. A private equity group proposes to acquire RCN. Vadopalas reported that local RCN management confirmed the proposed acquisition, and further indicated that existing RCN employees are expected to be retained and that Skokie customers would see no immediate changes to level of service.

Peter Vadopalas reported that AT&T is abandoning its U-verse platform, and will be transitioning its subscribers to its Direct TV in-home equipment. Vadopalas reminded Commissioners of the past presentation AT&T representatives offered to the Commission about their plans to deliver Direct TV content as their network architecture moved away from their traditional U-verse service.

New Business

Vice-Chair Kleinstein reported that he attended the national conference of the National Association of Technology Officers and Advisors (NATOA), which included a session led by a presenter from the FCC on the nation's digital divide. One of the nest practices on this topic is public provision of mobile hot-spots at the community level. Kleinstein commended Skokie Public Library for adopting this practice in Skokie, and expressed pride that our community is on the forefront of working to address this challenge.

Vice-Chair Kleinstein announced that his family will soon be moving from Skokie which will disqualify him from further participation on the STAT Commission. Kleinstein announced his resignation from the Commission. All Commissioners expressed appreciation for his service to the Commission and wished Kleinstein well.

VI. Adjourn

Vice-Chair Kleinstein adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: <u>The next Telecommunications and Technology Advisory Commission meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Skokie Village Hall.</u>