

The Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in the Digital Age

Monday, January 26, 2004
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C.
Commission Meeting Room (TW-C305)
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. The Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in the Digital Age held a public meeting on January 26, 2004, from 2-5 pm, in the Commission meeting room at FCC headquarters, Washington D.C.
2. Attendees included:
 - a. FAC members:

Jenny Alonzo, President, National Association for Multiethnicity In Communications, and Vice President, Production & Inventory Operations, Lifetime Television
Decker Anstrom, President, COO, Landmark Communications (by telephone)
Andrew Barrett, Managing Director, Barrett Group, Inc. (by telephone)
Anthony Gee, Managing Partner, The Carthage Group (by telephone)
Benita Fitzgerald Mosley, President, Women in Cable and Telecommunications
Priscilla Hill-Ardoin, Senior Vice-President, Regulatory Compliance, SBC
Steve Hillard, President, CEO, Council Tree Communications
David Honig, Executive Director, Minority Media and Telecommunications Council
Jamie Howard, COO, BigBand Networks, Inc. (by telephone)
Julia Johnson, President, NetCommunications, Chair Emerging Issues Policy Forum
Ginger Lew, CEO, Telecommunications Development Fund
Vonya McCann, Senior Vice President, Federal External Affairs, Sprint
Francisco R. Montero, Fletcher, Heald & Hildreth
Henry Rivera, Partner, Vinson & Elkins
Riley Temple, Partner, Halprin, Temple, Goodman & Maher
Lauren Tyler, Partner, Quetzal/JP Morgan Partners (by telephone)
Terdema Ussery, President, CEO, Dallas Mavericks, and CEO, HDNet (by telephone)
Alex Wallau, President, ABC Television Network
Kelvin Westbrook, President, CEO, Millennium Digital Media (by telephone)

Jim Winston, National Association of Black-Owned Broadcasters (by telephone)

Roscoe Young II, CEO, KMC Telecom (by telephone)

The following FAC members did not attend:

Joan Gerberding, President, Nassau Radio Network

Maria Brennan, Executive Director, American Women in Radio and Television

Alfred C. Liggins, III, President, CEO, Radio One

Matthew Blank, Chairman, CEO, Showtime Networks did not attend, but was represented by Ray Gutierrez, Executive Vice President, Human Resources and Administration, Showtime Networks

The following FAC experts also attended: Michele Farquhar, Griffin Johnson, Mark Dever, and Marva Johnson.

Stacey McMillian, General Counsel, NetCommunications, also attended.

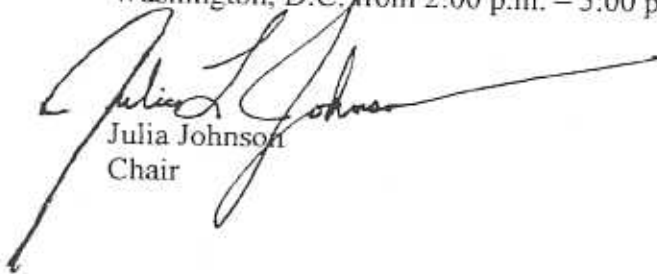
- b. FCC Officials: Chairman Powell, Commissioner Abernathy, Commissioner Adelstein
 - c. FCC Staff: Jane Mago, Designated Federal Officer (DFO); Maureen McLaughlin, Alternate DFO; Sherille Ismail, Office of Strategic Planning; Erin Boone, Office of Strategic Planning; Richard Lee, Office of Strategic Planning (by telephone); Kyle Dixon, Media Bureau; Jamila Bess-Johnson, Media Bureau.
 - d. Members of the public who presented oral or written statements: None
 - e. Other members of the public: Several members of the public attended the meeting.
3. Description of matters discussed and their resolution.
- a. Welcoming remarks: Chairman Powell, Commissioner Abernathy, and Commissioner Adelstein made opening remarks.
 - b. Chair Julia Johnson announced that the next meeting of the FAC would be May 10, 2004.
 - c. Chair Johnson introduced David Steward, Founder and Chairman, Worldwide Technology, Inc., who described the factors he overcame on his path to success. (A copy of Mr. Steward's presentation is available at <http://www.fcc.gov/DiversityFAC>.)

- d. Jenny Alonzo, Chair of the subcommittee on Career Advancement, described the subcommittee's efforts to gather data on employment of women and minorities. She said the subcommittee expects to complete its survey by April 12, 2004, and to present its recommended "best practices" at the May 10, 2004 FAC meeting. Several participants discussed ways of encouraging fuller compliance from industry. (A copy of Ms. Alonzo's presentation is available at <http://www.fcc.gov/DiversityFAC>.)
- e. Riley Temple, on behalf of Roscoe Young, Chair of the Subcommittee on New Technologies, described the ongoing efforts to develop recommendations to facilitate opportunities for minorities and women in new technologies. The subcommittee made the following recommendations for which it concluded that no new legislation or FCC rules were needed: expand the working relationship between the FCC and the Small Business Administration; convene an annual conference on opportunities in emerging technologies such as VOIP, WiFi, and broadband; establish an FCC database or information clearing-house of updated license sales, spectrum leasing, and other commercial opportunities. Mr. Temple indicated the subcommittee expected to develop White Papers on additional recommendations. Chairman Powell suggested that the Committee assemble a reading list of diversity success stories for circulation to the membership. (A copy of Mr. Temple's presentation is available at <http://www.fcc.gov/DiversityFAC>.)
- f. The Access to Capital subcommittee made three presentations that grew out of its January 20, 2004 consultations with industry experts, academicians and lenders on regulatory initiatives and the availability and access to capital for women and minorities in the telecommunications industry. Ginger Lew summarized the panel discussion on private equity; Frank Montero discussed the presentations on senior debt; and Henry Rivera discussed policy issues. Several members contributed to the discussion that followed. (A copy of the presentations by Ms. Lew, Mr. Montero, and Mr. Rivera are available at <http://www.fcc.gov/DiversityFAC>.)
- g. Steve Hillard, Chair of the Transactional Transparency and Related Outreach subcommittee described the three categories of potential recommendations under review by the subcommittee: affirmative "deal flow" enhancement mechanisms; a transactional non-discrimination rule and certification; and information, education, clearinghouse and voluntary outreach programs. (A copy of Mr. Hillard's presentation is available at <http://www.fcc.gov/DiversityFAC>.)
- h. The Committee also considered a draft resolution (copy available at <http://www.fcc.gov/DiversityFAC>) proposed by David Honig, urging the FCC to "preserve, and if possible expand upon the Distress Sale Policy."

No action was taken on this matter. Several members suggested that they were not immediately familiar with this policy and thus needed further discussion of the merits of this proposal. DFO Jane Mago suggested this might be accomplished via e-mail discussions among the members and noted that any email discussions would be posted on the FAC website to ensure it would be available to the public.

4. Certification

I, Julia Johnson, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in the Digital Age ("Diversity Committee"), hereby certify that the above minutes accurately describe the first meeting of the Diversity Committee, held on January 26, 2004, in the Commission Meeting Room (TW-C305) at the Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.



Julia Johnson
Chair