

The Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in the Digital Age

Monday, September 29, 2003
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C.
Commission Meeting Room (TW-C305)
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. The Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in the Digital Age held its inaugural meeting on September 29, 2003, from 2-4 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

Andrew Barrett, Managing Director, Barrett Group, Inc.

Matthew Blank, Chairman, CEO, Showtime Networks

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

Benita Fitzgerald Mosley, President, Women in Cable and Telecommunications

A. Anthony Gee, Managing Partner, The Carthage Group

Steve Hillard, President, CEO, Council Tree Communications

David Honig, Executive Director, Minority Media and Telecommunications Council

Jamie Howard, COO, BigBand Networks, Inc.

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 and Temple

Lauren Tyler, Partner, Quetzal/JP Morgan Partners

Terdema Ussery, President, CEO, Dallas Mavericks, and CEO, HDNet

Alex Wallau, President, ABC Television Network

Kelvin Westbrook, President, CEO, Millennium Digital Media

Roscoe Young II, CEO, KMC Telecom

The following FAC members did not attend:

Joan Gerberding, President, Nassau Radio Network

Priscilla Hill-Ardoin, Senior Vice-President, Regulatory Compliance, SBC

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

Jim Winston, National Association of Black-Owned Broadcasters

- b. FCC Officials: Chairman Powell, Commissioner Abernathy, Commissioner Copps and Commissioner Adelstein
 - c. FCC Staff: Jane Mago, Designated Federal Officer (DFO); Maureen McLaughlin, Alternate DFO; Sherille Ismail, Senior Counsel, Office of Strategic Planning; Erin Boone, Office of Strategic Planning.
 - 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, Commissioner Copps, and Commissioner Adelstein made opening remarks.
 - b. Chair Julia Johnson announced the formation of four subcommittees: Financial issues, Transactional Transparency and Related Outreach, Career Advancement and New Technologies.

The Financial Issues subcommittee will assess current practices regarding access to capital, and will be chaired by Andrew Barrett, Managing Director, Barrett Group, Inc.

The Transactional Transparency and Related Outreach Subcommittee will assess current practices of how potential investment opportunities in telecommunications industries are identified and how that information is disseminated, and will be chaired by Steve Hillard, President, CEO, Council Tree Communications.

The Career Advancement Subcommittee will assess current executive training programs and other career development programs that target minorities and women in the telecommunications industries, and will be chaired Jenny Alonzo, President, National Association for Multiethnicity In Communications.

The New Technologies Subcommittee will assess what ownership and career advancement opportunities are available in the new and emerging technologies, and will be chaired by Roscoe Young II, CEO, KMC Telecom.

- c. DFO Jane Mago described the mission of the advisory committee and the committee's goals. A copy of her presentation is attached. The Committee members discussed the meeting budget and logistics, access to expertise both within and outside the Committee membership, Committee and subcommittee goals and scheduling the next meeting.
- d. Mitsy Wilson, Senior Vice President, Fox Entertainment Group, News Corporation, described diversity initiatives at Fox.
- e. Professor Charles Abernathy, Georgetown University Law Center, discussed recent Supreme Court cases establishing parameters for affirmative action policy.
- f. The Committee discussed its ongoing role and ways to achieve goals. David Honig distributed a document containing certain "race-neutral" proposals from the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council, and suggested that the Committee seek a formal opinion from a legal expert on whether the proposals constitute a compelling governmental interest. Andrew Barrett raised the question of whether the Justice Department, rather than an Advisory Committee, should seek such a formal opinion. Kevin Westbrook suggested that the matter should be discussed in the context of any recommendations made by the relevant subcommittee. The Committee took no further action on this matter. (A copy of Mr. Honig's proposal is attached.)

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 September 29, 2003, in the Commission Meeting Room (TW-C305) at the Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.


Julia Johnson