

**CHAMPAIGN-URBANA CABLE TELEVISION AND  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**DATE:** January 18, 2006  
4:30 PM

**PLACE:** Urbana Council Chambers  
400 S. Vine, Urbana, IL

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>CHAMPAIGN</b> Rick Atterberry Karen Walker Giraldo Rosales	<b>URBANA</b> Danielle Chynoweth Barb Gladney Peter Resnick Durl Kruse
	<b>PARKLAND</b>	<b>U of I</b> Stan Yagi

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tom McDonnell, Brian Silverman

**STAFF PRESENT:** Chris Foster - City of Urbana  
Jeff Hamilton - City of Champaign

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Art Svymbersky - Insight Communications  
Jim Lee – Insight Communications

**Call to Order**

Rick Atterberry called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes were amended and approved.

**Correspondence**

Mr. Hamilton highlighted a few items of correspondence which the Commission received this quarter. He received a number of letters from Melody Brucker at Insight Communications. One involved a rate increase notice for the Classic service tier. Two cable complaints were received as well as communications from national organizations to which the Commission belongs. Insight also provided the annual FCC form 1240 which involves updating the maximum permitted rates for regulated cable services.

Barbara Gladney informed the Commission that she received a return receipt requested letter informing her of the increase of the Classic service in November and wondered why it had to be return receipt. Other Commissioners commented that they received it certified as well. Art

Svymbersky responded that because of the timing of it, they wanted to make sure the information was received.

### **Old Business**

**A. Broadcast retransmission agreements-** Chair Atterberry explained there had been some concern because of the parent company of WCIA's actions in Missouri. He asked Insight if there are any other pending retransmission agreements that are about to expire. Mr. Svymbersky told the Commission there were none.

**B. NATOA Conference-** Commissioner Chynoweth reported that she had lobbied our legislators while she was in Washington, D.C. for the conference. She reported much of the Conference dealt with the BITS legislation. She reported that she met with Dick Durbin's aide and dropped a letter off at Senator Obama's office.

### **Committee Reports**

There were no Committee reports.

### **Staff Reports**

**1. UPTV -** Chris Foster reported that the Martin Luther King event had been recorded. A couple more people used the UPTV studio. Another show will begin in February which will mean two different users utilizing the studio.

Commissioner Resnick stated that the guide on the digital cable doesn't include the Urbana or Parkland listings which means those with DVR can not record programs. They are on Channel 19, but not on the digital guide. Champaign's listings are on the digital guide.

**2. Channel 5 –** Mr. Hamilton reminded the Commission about the eNATOA teleconferences they had registered for. The first one occurred last week. The Commission is registered for the next three and Commissioners should contact him if they plan to attend. City staff produced a program titled "Fire Factor, which teaches University students about the dangers of fire by putting them in real-world situations. The program was produced last summer and recently received an Award of Distinction at the 2005 Communicator Awards.

Commissioner Resnick asked if recordings will be made of the e-NATOA sessions. Mr. Hamilton responded that he had recorded the last session and would tape others as well.

### **CATV Operator's Report**

Art Svymbersky presented the Commission with Insight's 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Operator's Report. Customer statistics from October thru December showed growth on basic subscribers and digital customers. Telephone statistics fell short of the 90% goal in October, but they were able to reach it in November and December. Quarterly total was 90.6%. Mr. Svymbersky also reported 400 drops currently on the ground and that they are not currently burying due to winter weather. He also announced that on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, they added Fox Sports Midwest on channel 26 and ESPN News, Sprout (PBS) on December 1<sup>st</sup>, and new local weather service on channel 138 and WAND-HD, and three channels from MTV. He also reported that in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter ESPN News and ESPN Classic were moved to align them better.

Regarding the digital guide question from earlier in the meeting, he agreed to work on that to make sure information is being sent to the proper person.

Commissioner Resnick asked if they had control over the DVR software on the boxes like the Favorites button and could change how things work. Mr. Svymbersky responded that Motorola sends Insight a stream. Insight works with them for required changes.

Commissioner Resnick asked about outages and technical issues that don't require an appointment. Mr. Svymbersky responded that after three service calls about any one thing it goes in as an outage and automatically gets attended to by repair.

Commissioner Resnick also commented about the volume on the HD channels being lower than the analog channels. Some commercials as well seem louder. Mr. Svymbersky responded that most of those issues can be balanced at their headend. Jim Lee, Technical Operations Manager, responded that digital format channels come in digitized off the satellites so they don't have a lot of control over them, but they can check with the broadcasters.

Karen Walker asked about a complaint from a customer about the Classic service. Mr. Svymbersky responded that they don't give customers specific cost of channels, but across the board, programming costs went up about 17% last year.

Mr. Hamilton asked about Insight's FCC Form 1240 and whether or not there was going to be another rate increase. Mr. Svymbersky responded that the rate increase was taken on the Classic tier early this year to put it more in line with the budget process. As far as he knows there will be no rate increase for Basic service.

Chair Atterberry stated that Fox Sports Chicago was moved and that the channel will likely go away soon. Mr. Svymbersky added that people can probably now find the same programs on Fox Sports Midwest.

### **New Business**

**A. Public Access Study Committee Report** - Barbara Gladney read and made a motion to approve a Resolution to Accept the Public Access Study Committee Report and its recommendations. Seconded by Commissioner Chynoweth.

Durl Kruse noted that the Resolution was not something new or abstract, but rather if people would go back to the initial process and look at the PEG sections of the franchise agreement, the very sections that we're asking for were negotiated at that time.

A Roll Call vote was taken to adopt the Resolution:

Rick Atterberry – Yes  
Danielle Chynoweth- Yes  
Barbara Gladney – Yes  
Durl Kruse – Yes

Peter Resnick – Yes  
Giraldo Rosales - Yes  
Karen Walker – Yes  
Stan Yagi - Yes

Resolution passed 8-0.

**B. National Telecommunications Legislation** – Chair Atterberry reminded the Commission that at their last study session they had discussed the need to ask the Cities to communicate with the legislature and FCC. Commissioner Chynoweth stated that the Urbana Council has passed two Resolutions so far, clearly opposing the takeover of local franchising authority.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the Mayor of Champaign had also signed and submitted letters to our legislators opposing the legislation from last fall.

Chair Atterberry stressed the need to “keep the heat on” and keep informed of the information on the legislation located on the website [www.ntoa.org](http://www.ntoa.org). He stated that he will work with Jeff to submit comments to the FCC on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Gladney asked that information about the complaints that are mediated be listed in the comments as well.

Commissioner Resnick asked what kind of detail needed to be given to legislators and what kind of things need to be put together. Commissioner Chynoweth stated that Senator Durbin’s office asked for stories, specific testimony and quotes from Public Access users.

### **C. Commission Membership Renewal**

Mr. Hamilton reviewed the renewal notices for the three national organizations to which the Commission belongs: NATOA’s annual membership is \$750.00, Illinois NATOA’s membership is \$60, and the Alliance for Community Media membership is \$100.

Commissioner Gladney moved to renew the membership in all three. Motion seconded by Commissioner Rosales. Commissioner Chynoweth mentioned the annual Media Reform Conference and stated that the Commission should consider sending someone if the budget allows.

Motion to renew the three memberships passed 8-0.

### **D. Cable Franchise Renewal Process**

Chair Atterberry stated that historically two or three members of the Commission are involved in the negotiations for franchise renewal. The process will be ramping up over the next several months and it is a 3 year process.

Commissioner Gladney asked about the status of the preparation for the process. Mr. Hamilton stated that the Cities have met together at the staff level to discuss working together. At this point, they’re looking into authorization and budget.

Commissioner Chynoweth explained that a report came to Urbana's Council with the recommendation to hire a consultant and the recommendation was noted. They did not formally endorse it because we talked about meeting with Champaign and Urbana City Councils so it should be presented at the study session of the Councils.

**E. City Council Study Session**

Chair Atterberry asked who would like to help prepare the documentation and attend the Urbana City Council Study Session on February 27<sup>th</sup> and Champaign City Council Study Session on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners Kruse, Resnick, Walker and Rosales indicated their possible attendance.

Chair Atterberry asked each Commissioner to send Jeff any important notes they would like highlighted in the documentation or presentation.

**Audience Participation**

None

**Commissioner Comments**

None

**Next Meeting/Adjournment**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2006. Study Session topic to be announced.

Commissioner Resnick motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Yagi.

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 PM.