

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

**DATE:** April 19, 2006  
4:30 PM

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

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>CHAMPAIGN</b> Rick Atterberry	<b>URBANA</b> Danielle Chynoweth Peter Resnick Durl Kruse
	<b>PARKLAND</b> Tom McDonnell	<b>U of I</b> Stan Yagi

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Barbara Gladney, Karen Walker, Giraldo Rosales, 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**

Chairman Atterberry called the meeting to order at 4:36 PM.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve agenda made by Danielle Chynoweth. Seconded by Thomas McDonnell.  
Agenda approved.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes for the January study session and quarterly meeting made by Peter Resnick, Seconded by Durl Kruse. Minutes approved.

**Correspondence**

Jeff Hamilton shared five cable complaints and an article from the News-Gazette with the Commission. He also provided updates from NATOA.

## **Old Business**

### **A. City Council Presentations**

Chairman Atterberry reported that the initial presentation to Urbana City Council was done in March.

### **B. National Proposed Rule Making Responses**

Chairman Atterberry stated that the FCC asked for comments regarding rulemaking that mirrors the current legislation. The FCC has heard from our community well defining what we had at stake. Commissioner McDonnell added that Dr. Harris from Parkland also sent letters of support regarding local franchises.

## **Committee Reports**

### **A. Technical Committee - None**

### **B. PEG Report -None**

### **C. Staff Reports**

1. Urbana - Chris Foster provided updates regarding studio usage. Champaign County Farm Bureau will be producing a studio show and Kali will also be hosting a talk show to promote access. There was a letter to the editor in the News-Gazette complaining about UPTV. The issue was discussed during the UPTV Commission meeting. Mr. Foster has tried to contact the letter writer inviting him to the Commission meeting, but he has not responded. UPTV Commission is working on UPTV goals. The new Nexus system will be coming soon which will facilitate programming and bulletin board production on the channel.

2. Champaign -Jeff Hamilton notified the Commission that he was called into a meeting with Phil Bloomer on Rep. Johnson's staff to discuss the COPE legislation. They were non-committal and no promises were made. It seemed like Rep. Johnson may go with the majority. Champaign requested that if legislation did go through, amendments would be made to serve the best interest of the community. Mr. Bloomer also reportedly met with Urbana and the City of Normal. Mr. Hamilton also provided a memo from Trisha Crowley (Champaign Legal Dept.) concerning the new ownership of Insight Communications which is now a privately held company. Chairman Atterberry added that Insight Midwest is a 50/50 partnership between Insight and Comcast and there was a recapitalization through the Carlisle Group in taking it private and the question is does that constitute a change of ownership.

### **Operator Report**

Art Svymbersky provided a report noting the growth in January with students coming back as well as February and March. Customer Service level was 90.13 in January, 93 in February and 95 in March averaging about 93% for the quarter. 119 drops on the ground which is a better position going into spring. Launched WICD-HD a few days prior to the Superbowl.

Commissioner Resnick asked about the digital TV guide not showing listings for Urbana or Parkland. Mr. Svymbersky replied that the information is sent to two different companies. Chris Foster replied that he hasn't received a response from the contact that provides that service. Mr. Svymbersky replied that he would look into the situation further.

Mr. Resnick asked about the volume control issue on the HD channels. Mr. Svymbersky replied that he has talked to a few technical representatives and they have sent e-mails, but there is a menu set up in the box itself if you change the compression from light to heavy it may balance that out. However, there is no real volume control setting on their end, but they are looking into it. Jim Lee, Technical Manager with Insight, added that they cannot control the volume on the digital channels, but they are looking into the issue.

Commissioner Resnick also asked about deployment of the other HD channels. Mr. Svymbersky reported they are close to putting WILL on and a new digital tier will roll out in June including TNT, Cinemax and Starz.

## **New Business**

### **A. Future Role of Public Access Study Committee**

Commissioner Resnick suggested that the issue should be tabled and delayed until Commissioner Gladney can be present at the meeting.

### **B. AT&T Project Lightspeed**

Commissioner Atterberry presented the information regarding Project Lightspeed which delivers video over the internet. The argument is whether or not it is a cable system and should require franchises. AT&T is suing communities who put a moratorium on dealing with the issue.

Jeff Hamilton stated that the City of Champaign has a meeting scheduled with AT&T representatives to discuss the project and the City's concerns.

Commissioner Resnick stated that the internet engineering task force who define internet protocol has a document that defines what it means to be an internet service provider. His assumption is that what they're doing cannot be justified as an internet service and they are just using that as a backbone for the TV initiatives. This citation may be information you can use.

Commissioner Resnick also vented his absolute disgust with all of this which he stated is born out of the Telecommunications Act. Cities have to be able to control what's on the ground in those cities.

Commissioner Chynoweth asked if Chris Foster knew the status of Urbana's stance on the AT&T issue. Mr. Foster responded that this was the first he'd heard of the issue and he does not believe they are working with Champaign, but he will check with City Attorney Jim Gitz to see if he is already working on it.

Commissioner Chynoweth asked if anyone knows what NATOA's recommendations were in response to item #3 in the memo and what Champaign will do to respond to it. Jeff Hamilton replied that he is not privy to those discussions.

Chairman Atterberry pointed out the issue of build out provisions.

### **C. Future e-NATO Sessions**

Chairman Atterberry and Jeff Hamilton provided information regarding future sessions and the new dual tracts of the e-NATO teleconferences.

Commissioner Chynoweth asked if she is still able to turn in receipts from the last NATOA conference since it's still within the fiscal year. Chairman Atterberry noted the new IRS rule that if it's more than 60 days past, the reimbursement may become taxable.

Commissioner Resnick expressed an interest in attending the neutrality session and asked if there was a way to receive a member discount.

Jeff Hamilton stated that the City of Champaign has interest in the broadband series and if the Commission is interested in the policy series, perhaps they could get a package jointly.

Commissioner Kruse expressed his interest in attending some of the teleconference sessions.

Commissioner Atterberry suggested that the Commission purchase five seminars at this point and see if the Cities might be able to pay for the broadband series.

Commissioner Resnick made a motion to commit to the five seminars. Seconded by Commissioner McDonnell. Motion passed.

### **D. Discussion of the NATOA Conference**

Chairman Atterberry stated the conference is in Orlando, Florida and the Commission could possibly send two people this year.

Commissioner McDonnell expressed a possible interest in attending the conference.

Commissioner Chynoweth made a motion to fund two people to attend the conference.

Commissioner McDonnell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **E. Future study session topics**

Commissioner Chynoweth suggested learning more about what kind of franchises are being negotiated currently and what are people successfully accomplishing.

Chairman Atterberry stated that they could do a legislative update in July and in October after NATOA, it could be revisited.

Commissioner Chynoweth also suggested that the Commission hear from public access members more directly to get input that would help to inform the franchise process.

**Audience Participation - None**

**Commissioner's Comments - None**

**Next Meeting Date/Adjournment**

Study session is July 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 in Champaign and the quarterly meeting is July 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 in Urbana.

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Yagi. Seconded by Commissioner Kruse.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:33 PM.