

Urbana Public Television Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 10, 2006
12:00 p.m.

Place: Urbana City Building-City Council Chambers
400 South Vine Street

Members Present

Barb Gladney (chair), Chris Foster, Greg Boozell, Carol Inskeep, Durl Kruse, Peter Resnick, Kathy Wallig

Call to Order

Barb Gladney called the meeting to order noting attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Correspondence

Staff Report

Chris Foster provided quick updates regarding the Nexxus which was ordered. A nexus is a hard drive programming unit that works with the program switcher UPTV already has. It will allow us to schedule programs easier and we may possibly use it as a bulletin board as well. The Nexxus also can be accessed from Chris' home.

The new Pinnacle editing system is here and we will take some time to get familiar with it.

Kali is working on guests for the new UPTV talk show.

A new production camera will be ordered by the end of this month.

Chris provided a list of things on the budget for next year. The numbers are rough estimates. The biggest thing is the council cameras are going to be replaced as well as the lighting and set up for presentation equipment. UPTV is getting 2 more public access cameras and tripods. If software works out, we may add one or two more computers for editing. We also discussed improving the broadcast for the school board.

Peter Resnick asked if these cameras are earmarked for some place afterward?

Chris Foster responded possibly library or school board when the new cameras come in. Also I spoke with insight and there is not a direct cable connection in the library yet. They will put one in when we tell them when to do it.

Durl Kruse asked which items might be coming out of the UPTV budget?

Chris Foster replied most of what you see will have its own line item in the budget. Some of the line items in our budget supplies, equipment maintenance, might come out of the UPTV budget. But for the most part it will be budgeted into the budget separately from my budget. The 5% goes into a general fund for the city and the 2% funds the whole channel.

Barb Gladney asked where the money comes from for replacement equipment in the council chambers?

Chris replied that anything comes out of that general fund not the UPTV budget. UPTV budget does not cover major expenses.

Durl Kruse asked if it would it be possible to see exactly what was purchased with that \$10,000 that comes out of part of our 2% and into the VEF fund.

Chris replied that the commission would probably need to talk to Ron Eldridge about that.

Barb Gladney stated that Durl can follow up on that. That is why its important to have a separate channel because the money is all blended.

Greg Boozell stated that it is a really good idea to get the library wired and set up.

Chris added that the first thing we need to do is tell insight to run the connection into the building then we can look into further hookups and other connections.

Greg Boozell asked beyond that connection what are the equipment needs necessary to telecast on UPTV?

Chris replied that we have a piece of equipment that you hook your camera up to and take your signal out of that into the wall which sends it back to insight. Basically we can check the equipment and take a camera over there to do meeting live.

Barb Gladney asked what kind of program were you thinking that you might do live?

Carol Inskeep responded that Library sponsored programs like out music series or children programs. The second type are groups unrelated to the library who reserve the space for speakers or club meetings. We're most interested in getting people in the library than broadcasting live programs. The option could open up enthusiasm for new use if people could broadcast live or tape.

Audience

None

Old Business

UPTV Goals

Durl Kruse provided a report from his meeting with staff. This goal plan isn't meant to be set yet. He highlighted information from the goal sheet.

Pete Resnick asked if insight ran commercials for UPTV like PSAs?

Chris responded that through our franchise agreement, we can produce promos once a semester that they will run.

Barb Gladney asked if we can put information in any of the free local papers.

Greg Boozell commented that we get a blurb every week in the TV Guide. Can we alter the wording?

Chris answered yes. Pretty sure we can alter that. Also the newsletter can be made available to members and public that could be left at the library.

Durl Kruse stated that at our regularly scheduled meeting, we can adopt some of these goals. If you have any questions or suggestions, contact Chris or I so that we can have a final draft at the next meeting.

Barb Gladney asked the commission to also consider any areas they could volunteer to help with.

Pete Resnick stated that I am already helping Kali with the website.

Chis Foster stated that commissioners can email Durl or me with any thoughts and we can produce a final draft.

Barb Gladney asked if UPTV members had any regular meetings?

Chris replied that in the past, only 2 or 3 people would show up. We have an annual open house on the goal sheet, if that works out well, we can schedule more.

Legislative Challenges

Greg Boozell let the commission know that a bill has left a house subcommittee to go to a full committee which would allow telephone companies to offer vide service without first obtaining local franchises. There is a provision for peg, but how it would be carried out is unknown. It's possible that this will die and not go anywhere given that its an

election year. I would particularly focus our efforts on the senate. Durbin is our most likely supporter and he has a lot of power in the senate. Not clear whether Obama supports the bill or not.

Kathy Wallig asked what does opting out as a local franchise mean as far as franchise fees.

Greg Boozell stated that the bill says that city would continue to collect franchise fees at a maximum of 6%. That way they try to relax the cable industry. The whole franchise renewal process would probably go away and local control would be eliminated.

Public Access Progress

None

New Business

Public Access Programming complaints

Chris Foster read a letter to the editor from Jeffery Sands from Champaign to the News Gazette. He called and e-mailed me. I responded to both and he has not replied. I am unable to find the program he is referring to. He didn't have exact quotes. I e-mailed him a complaint form and encouraged him to come to the meetings. I also let him know we were not sure to which program he was referring to. But he has not replied.

Barb stated that he has expressed his concern and I assume that's it.

Carol Inskeep asked what is the policy on racially inflammatory statements?

Chris replied that our basic policy is we don't censor anything. We don't preview anything. We have some lines you can't cross which are in the policies and procedures. We don't have the staff or time to review everything brought in. If there is questionable content they are supposed to inform us of that and we can play it at a later time.

Barb read the actual policy form the handbook.

Peter Resnick stated that public access means public access. There are all sorts of things on UPTV that I have all sorts of problems with and people can put on programming that counters information that is broadcast.

Kathy Wallig stated that Mr. Sands has had every opportunity to respond. I wouldn't go to anymore effort to reach him.

Greg stated that I don't think it would have been a bad idea to respond to the letter in the press. The one thing I want to avoid is when something is clearly legally protected, we are not just shipping them complaint forms, but offering them the chance to challenge with a program themselves. There are ways of framing it where we don't

sound defensive. We need to develop effective strategies to combat these issues or our outreach efforts will be undermined.

Next meeting

June 12, 2006