

Urbana Public Television Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 12, 2006
12:00 p.m.

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

Members Present

Barbara Gladney (chair), Greg Boozell, Carol Inskeep, Durl Kruse, Dana Mancuso, Kathy Wallig, Chris Foster (staff), Kali Boyden (staff)

Members Absent

Danielle Chynoweth, Peter Resnick

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Gladney called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

II. Roll Call

Attendance noted by Chris Foster.

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the April 10th meeting were approved as presented.

IV. Approval of Agenda

None

V. Correspondence

None

VI. Staff Report

A. Outreach Coordinator-Progress Report

Kali Boyden reported on the following:

- A newsletter was being drafted to send out to the members.
- Staff are still looking into the separate public access website. Chris Foster stated that he would speak with Bill Dejarnette about the possibility.
- A list of active organizational members was passed out reporting that about 22% of the membership was actively producing programming.
- Currently UPTV is registered for 3 summer events. Barb suggested registering for the July 4th event.
- A "Capture the Community" summer recruitment campaign and Hometown video contest were ideas being formulated to increase awareness.

Chairperson Gladney stated that visibility was the priority for UPTV.

Commissioner Boozell recommended that substantive programming on the channel was also important as well as getting the phone system running. Raising awareness won't help if people aren't producing programming. He also suggested using the bulletin board in outreach efforts.

Chairperson Gladney suggested having city officials come in and start a regular program.

Commissioner Boozell also suggested changing the TV guide information.

Commissioner Kruse suggested inviting people who are active in the community such as the athletic director or John Foreman.

Commissioner Boozell suggested the importance of the phone system when interviewing city officials so the public could call in and have their issues addressed.

B. UPTV Coordinator- UPTV Update

Chris Foster handed out an updated contact list for the commission to review and revise.

Commissioners Boozell, Resnick and Chynoweth's terms are up on June 30th. Commissioner Boozell has already contacted the Mayor's office. Chris will contact them and remind them to get that taken care of.

The at large UPTV commission vacancy may be filled soon. An application has been received.

Chris Foster reviewed the programming hours update for March-May and camera, editing and studio hours. Studio hours have increased significantly. A couple of shows are also being produced in the chambers. Kali is finishing her second monthly studio show. Israel One, Community Planning Conversations and Champaign County Farm Bureau are consistently using the studio.

Chairperson Gladney requested that a list of the programs and when they run be sent to the commission.

Chairperson Gladney asked if there were public access programs scheduled in the morning? Chris responded no, but that it could be arranged.

Commissioner Mancuso asked if CCFB could advertise their show in their newsletters. Chris responded that they could and that the bureau already advertises with Insight commercials and there was an article in the Champaign County Star.

April and May goals have been accomplished. The Nexxus is set up and staff are in the process of learning how to use it. The studio has had additional wiring installed for additional shots and laptop hookups. The next few things include installing the phone system and livening up the set. Pinnacle studio is also up and running.

VII. Audience Participation

None

VIII. Old Business

A. UPTV Goals

Chris Foster reported that the goals are the same, but have been re-categorized. Commissioner Kruse added that the new format is easy to follow and highlights the goals better. Commissioner Wallig added that her concerns were whether the goals were measurable. In addition, there is concern regarding the goal of updating city ordinances. They do need updating, but this is not something that the commission has control over. Is the city aware that the commission wants to do this?

Chris responded that he has spoken with City Attorney Jim Gitz several times about updating UPTV issues, but has not gotten into the details of city ordinances.

Chairperson Gladney stated that a meeting should be set up by July to get the process going. The changes include the grievance policy that has not yet been finalized. We can ask what needs to be in the procedure book and what needs to be an ordinance.

Chris will set up a meeting with City Attorney Gitz.

Commissioner Kruse pointed out that there were also some inconsistencies in the city ordinances that did not reflect the UPTV policies and procedures such as commission membership numbers.

Chairperson Gladney asked about prioritizing the goals citing that anything that supports the separate access center and the franchise process should be considered a priority.

Commissioner Kruse spoke about someone from the commission working with the city negotiating team suggesting that Chairperson Gladney be the representative. In addition, 3-4 representatives from this commission could meet with local officials to talk about the impact of the franchising.

Commissioner Boozell asked if we have heard back about what the process timeline would be for acquiring a consultant.

Chairperson Gladney and Chris Foster were unaware.

Commissioner Boozell requested that it be a priority on the timeline.

Commissioner Kruse made a motion that the commission recommend a representative from the UPTV commission serve on the negotiating team if that opportunity presents itself.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Mancuso.

Motion passed unanimously through a roll call vote.

B. Library Update

Commissioner Boozell reported that they met a month ago to determine the potential for broadcasting out of the library auditorium. They already have some audio and presentation equipment. A switcher or CG could easily be installed to run a multi-camera production. If the cable company agrees, a live show would be possible. He recommended that when the chamber cameras are replaced, the auditorium would be a good place for them to go. He is unsure what the budget possibilities are for securing the switcher device.

IX. New Business

A. Franchise/Legislation Update

Chairperson Gladney stated that Champaign City Council voted to have a separate public access channel and CMC on the negotiating table.

The Commission is trying to make sure the COPE bill has provisions for PEG.

Commissioner Boozell suggested that the bill is anti-consumer, prevents competition and doesn't provide for build out. In terms of public access, there is provision for access funding. The problem is for smaller communities who will not receive adequate funding support. The bill will limit UPTV's current 2% fee to 1%. There are also no protections for internet neutrality. Greg suggested that constituents contact their senators and Tim Johnson. In addition the commission may need to make personal visits to them. He also suggested calling Washington and talking to the telecom aid to Obama.

Chairperson Gladney suggested that each commissioner write a letter and call Washington.

Commissioner Boozell suggested that an action alert be sent to UPTV membership.

Chairperson Gladney suggested having a press conference sponsored by the Cable Commission. She will contact Rick Atterbury to see what can be done before the July meeting. Another suggestion is to have something sponsored by the UPTV commission.

X. Commissioner's Comments

None

XI. Announce Next Meeting Date

Next meeting is September 11th, 2006.

XII. Adjournment

Chairperson Gladney adjourned the meeting.