

# Urbana Public Television Commission

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** December 11, 2006  
12:00 p.m.

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

### **Members Present**

Barbara Gladney (chair), Durl Kruse, Dana Mancuso, Kathy Wallig, Peter Resnick, Greg Boozell

Chris Foster (staff), Kali Boyden (staff)

### **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**

Motion to adopt the minutes as presented made by Durl Kruse and seconded by Peter Resnick. Minutes accepted as printed.

### **IV. Approval of Agenda**

FCC legislation update was added to the agenda under comments.  
Community Media Center discussion was moved up after approval of agenda, before staff reports.

### **V. Correspondence**

None.

### **VI. Envisioning**

Commissioner Wallig delivered a presentation about the envisioning for a Community Media Center and Public Access Channel, composed by Urbana Free Library and Urbana Park District and Urbana School District representatives.

*Discussion brought forth following questions:*

Would the center be staffed by paid individuals or volunteers? Where will it be?  
Who would be responsible for production? Is it public access or governmental? Will definition change? Duplication of effort and technology? How does an entity provide  
Will viewers be confused by multiple channels?  
How is all of this to be paid for? Public Taxes? Franchise?

Commissioner Gladney asked the group to keep working in preparation for the consultant.

Commissioner Boozell commented that they should consider the data needs for the agencies. An I-Net can be part of what is required from cable operator.

## **VII. Staff Reports**

Chris Foster spoke about the complaint status regarding Mr. Brumleve's program.

The City attorney has yet to view the program in question.

Chris also reported that Barbara Gladney, Greb Boozell and himself met to talk about scheduling and programming issues. They discussed revising complaint forms, asking people to refer to certain policy sections in the manual. All programs also need to have a public access ID and producer identification. UPTV is not responsible for putting producer information on each of the programs. Series programs need to be further defined. Adult programming needs to be redefined and broader. Language in dealing with the public file needs to be restated clearer.

Commissioner Resnick asked if Chris would rewrite the policy amendments and bring them back to the Commission.

Chris replied he would review them with legal and present them to the Commission.

### **UPTV Outreach Coordinator**

Kali Boyden reported that an Open House is scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup>.

She met with Community Development Department regarding the process of producing newsletters. She recommended monthly newsletters would provide more accurate information and discussed the layout of the newsletter.

Commissioner Boozell recommended that UPTV use the bulletin board to advertise community events.

Commissioner Kruse recommended that UPTV not commit to doing a newsletter for a year and he would like to see something more visible in community.

Commissioner Mancuso recommended putting ads in other department newsletters.

Kali further reported that 11 new members signed up for memberships, but she is still working on getting members to produce programs.

## **VIII. Old Business**

### **Library Update**

Chris reported that Carol was discussing with library staff exactly how to get building rewired. He will talk to her further about it.

Commissioner Boozell asked what would happen to the cameras currently in the chambers.

Chris replied that he would recommend giving them to another agency that needed them like the library.

### Franchise renewal update

Commissioner Kruse has been voted to be Urbana representative on the cable negotiating team. The process is underway. Notice from Insight has been received. A public hearing was held. Champaign is the lead agency in process. An Intergovernmental agreement will be approved prior to consultant's hire regarding the city's role in process. Next task is to hire a consultant. Three finalists are making presentations at public meetings.

Commissioner Kruse said it would be helpful to begin that discussion with city staff of how PEG fees are used and how that would be impacted.

Chris commented that he can provide the basic budget information, but more specifics would have to be supplied by Ron Eldridge.

Commissioner Resnick commented that it seemed that these topics have much more to do with post franchising. Once UPTV has the ability to have a separate channel and facility, a block of money could be split. He is not clear how that is part of the franchise agreement process.

Commissioner Boozell responded that the agreement can be written to include that this stream of revenue goes to directly to a particular entity. There is still accountability, but the money is not politicized.

Commissioner Resnick recommended having that discussion with Ron Eldridge soon to discuss potential possibilities.

Commissioner Gladney wants to get information together and talk to Ron. Commissioner Kruse volunteered to contact key people and report back. Chris Foster suggested e-mailing him and he will forward the e-mail to Ron.

### **IX. Commissioner's Comments**

Commissioner Boozell provided an FCC legislative update. The legislation to weaken authority of local community to control their public rights of way failed in congress.

Telephone companies are now trying to have the FCC rewrite rules of how franchising is conducted by eliminating several things, including mandatory build out which would seriously threaten PEG funding. He recommended people contact FCC to file ex parte comments. He also asked that someone from city staff file comments.

Chris Foster replied he would let the appropriate people know.

### **X. Next meeting**

Commissioner Gladney asked if people would be willing to meet more often than 4 times a year, perhaps again in February.

*Next meeting, a special meeting, will be **February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007** at noon.*

