

## **UPTV Commission Minutes 9-21-07**

**Members Present:** Barbara Gladney, David Adcock, Durl Kruse, Carol Inskip, and Dana Mancuso

**Members Absent:** Peter Resnick, Greg Boozell, and Danielle Chynoweth

**Others Present:** Doug Miller and Bill Dejarnette

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gladney at 12:03 p.m.

The first item on the agenda was the ACM Conference Report presented by Commissioner Kruse. The conference was held in Minneapolis during the month of July. Commissioner Kruse was able to tour three PEG stations in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. He reported that the tour allowed him to see what possibilities lay ahead for public access in Champaign-Urbana.

He pointed out that many public access stations have more than just a primary responsibility of producing television shows. They are now concerned with “Web 2” which is yet another forum for people's voice within a community. He suggested that we don't resist “Web 2”, but look to see how we can incorporate it into public access programming.

Commissioner Kruse emphasized the need for UPTV to have a mission statement. He felt the reason we have public access is because it gives a voice to the community and therefore builds a stronger community.

He reported that UPTV membership is a number that is relatable to the PEG stations he visited, but UPTV staff is much smaller. The budget ranges for the three PEG stations ranges from \$1,049,000 - \$1,400,000. They are able to get this money through PEG fees, cable capitol grants, membership fees, training fees, service contracts, donations, and franchise fees.

The stations are fully equipped with studios, control rooms, production areas and mobile production trucks. These are all open for public use. Commissioner Kruse felt that if Champaign-Urbana were to invest in a community media center that it would have to be looked at and discussed within the next 12 months.

He discussed some possible scenarios in funding for a community media center. Champaign collects \$338,000/year in cable fees while Urbana collects \$284,000/year plus \$114,000 for UPTV. Commissioner Kruse suggested that we would have to overlap franchise fees and PEG fees to support a community media center. He went into detail with a scenario that had Champaign providing \$281,000/year while Urbana provided \$114,000/year. The PEG channel would not be government related in any way. The fees would come from the cable franchise.

Chair Gladney moved on to the staff report and asked City of Urbana staff member Dejarnette about the vacant UPTV staff positions.

Staff member Dejarnette extended the deadline for both the station manager and production coordinator positions. He reported that there are a number of qualified applicants for the production coordinator position while the station manager had a few applicants of interest.

Chair Gladney asked if there would be an opening for an Outreach Coordinator. Staff member Dejarnette was hoping to get the station manager position filled first so the new station manager could have input on the Outreach Coordinator position.

Chair Gladney expressed her concern that UPTV members aren't getting the attention they need and outreach is very important. Staff member Dejarnette assured her that UPTV members are still involved at this time, but agreed that outreach is critical for a PEG channel.

Staff member Miller went into detail about how members are still participating and many of the studio shows were on a break any way. He reported that since previous staff's departure he has been rewiring and eliminating unnecessary equipment.

Staff member Dejarnette reported that we have been rebroadcasting city meetings on the website, but he is looking into live broadcasts as well.

Chair Gladney asked Commissioner Inskeep about the library's public access operations. Commissioner Inskeep explained that it is a financial issue.

Staff member Dejarnette announced that the City of Urbana is looking to expand the data connectivity between the library and the city so we can edit the video from the city's computers without the transfer of tapes or DVD's. He thinks that within the next 60-90 days that the city will have something to support the live data stream.

Commissioner Kruse suggested that the UPTV Commission be given the opportunity to hear the needs assessment report. Chair Gladney assured him that they will have that opportunity in the future.

Staff member Miller reported that UPTV will start keeping electronic as well as paper records and suggested revising the UPTV Policies and Procedures.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

The next meeting will be at noon on Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in the City of Urbana Council Chambers.