

UPTV Commission Minutes 12-10-07

Members Present: Barbara Gladney, David Adcock, Peter Resnick, Greg Boozell, Durl Kruse, Dana Mancuso, and Carol Inskeep

Members Absent: Danielle Chynoweth

Others Present: Doug Miller and Bill Dejarnette

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gladney at 12:04 p.m.

Chair Gladney asked the Commission to approve a change to the agenda by moving the approval of minutes first.

Commissioner Kruse began the discussion on the consultant's needs assessment report. Kruse recommended that the UPTV Commission be represented at both the Urbana and Champaign City Council meetings should there be a need to add input to Consultant Brian Grogen's report. Kruse noted that he is not fully supportive of the recommendations concerning public access on UPTV in the needs assessment report.

Commissioner Boozell agreed with Kruse that splitting the duties of public access between UPTV and a separate public access station is not workable right now. Boozell also noted that Champaign residents do use UPTV for public access and the Champaign City Council needs to take that into consideration.

Commissioner Kruse suggested making the recommendation to the Urbana City Council that either the UPTV Station Manager or a UPTV Commissioner be part of the Public Access Steering Committee mentioned in the needs assessment report.

Chair Gladney noted that Rick Atterberry, Chair of the Champaign-Urbana Joint Cable and Telecommunications Commission, will be present for both City Council meetings to give a presentation and answer any questions.

Commissioner Kruse motioned to approve the minutes for September 17, 2007; September 21, 2007; and October 5, 2007. Commissioner Adcock seconded this motion.

In the Staff Report, Bill Dejarnette announced that Kate Gorman will start as Station Manager on December 17. Doug Miller announced that UPTV is now broadcasting Urbana High School basketball. Dejarnette is hoping to get high school students involved in public access.

Commissioner Boozell recommended Free Spirit Media, which is a company based in Chicago that gets students involved in broadcasting. Boozell also asked staff the policy on third party public access as far as disclaimers are concerned.

Doug Miller informed him that a disclaimer runs both before and after any public access program.

In the Staff Report, Miller also announced that Jason Liggett was hired as Production Coordinator. Bill Dejarnette informed the Commission that an Outreach Coordinator will be hired in the future.

Doug Miller noted that he ran section 3.5 in the UPTV Policies and Procedures through legal advisement and the recommended changes were minimal, but the Commissioners were given a copy of the document.

Commissioner Boozell opposed the recommended changes to section 1.2 of the UPTV Policies and Procedures. He could not think of any other instance where members were being charged for not being cable subscribers.

Commissioner Kruse pointed out that cable subscribers are the one's supporting UPTV through the PEG fee that is collected. Kruse suggested not charging a membership fee for the next year.

Commissioner Boozell felt that any citizen even if they aren't a cable subscriber is letting the cable company use land that their taxes pay for. He doesn't want any fees collected until a new franchise agreement is reached. Fees discourage participation. He suggested leaving section 1.2 Membership Fees how it was and don't change it.

Commissioner Boozell also pointed out that section 2.1 referenced A.1 and A.4, however there were no documents labeled A.1 and A.4. On the Cablecast request form he suggested changing "third party" to "non local programming".

Commissioner Mancuso motioned to approve UPTV Policies and Procedures as presented with the exception of Section 1.2 and 1.3 which will revert to their originals. Commissioner Boozell seconded the motion. The UPTV Policies and Procedures were passed unanimously with the recommended changes.

Chair Gladney recommended that Doug Miller email the Commissioners an up-to-date version of the UPTV Policies and Procedures before sending it to the Urbana City Council.

Commissioner Kruse presented the UPTV Mission Statement with the idea that it is just a recommendation and not permanent.

Commissioner Resnick asked if there was an ordinance discussing a mission statement about UPTV.

Chair Gladney assured him that there was not.

Commissioner Boozell pointed out that there would be a problem if the UPTV mission statement differed from UPTV Policies and Procedures.

Commissioner Adcock stated that he would have a problem if the mission statement did not coincide with UPTV Policies and Procedures.

Commissioner Inskeep read Commissioner Mancuso's suggested mission statement. "The mission of UPTV is to provide the tools for local individuals and organizations to create and telecast or air non-commercial television programming that reflects a diversity of view points."

Commissioner Resnick asked Commissioner Boozell if CANTV is operated by a independent board that is not government connected.

Commissioner Boozell responded that the organization was created through municipal ordinance, but the organization is a 501C3 nonprofit.

Commissioner Kruse did not want to rush into approving a mission statement, but wanted to make a draft available for public input.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

The next meeting is set for Friday, January 18 at 12:00 p.m.