

**CHAMPAIGN-URBANA JOINT CABLE AND  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** September 17, 2003  
Wednesday -- 4:00 PM

**PLACE:** Parkland College – Room C-123, Fine and Applied Arts Wing  
2400 W. Bradley Avenue, Champaign, IL

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** CITY OF URBANA PARKLAND COLLEGE  
Barbara Gladney Thomas McDonnell

CITY OF CHAMPAIGN  
Richard Atterberry  
Karen Walker

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Brian Silverman, Giraldo Rosales, Kevin Maxson, Stan Yagi

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jeff Hamilton, Chris Foster

**OTHERS PRESENT:** None

**SPECIAL MEETING TOPIC:** Planning for Forum on High Definition Television (HDTV) for the October 8, 2003, Study Session Meeting

**CALL TO ORDER**

Tom McDonnell called the special meeting of the Champaign-Urbana Joint Cable and Telecommunications Commission to order at 4:02 PM.

**DISCUSSION**

Commissioner McDonnell shared he has invited all the local broadcasters and Insight Communications to participate in the Study Session Forum on HDTV. Insight Communications is the only commitment thus far. There was some discussion on whether HDTV signals were covered under the FCC’s “Must Carry” directive to cable operators. Commissioner McDonnell shared that the FCC is still debating that issue. Commissioner Atterberry offered that consumer demand will probably dictate HDTV signals will be carried on cable. Commissioner Atterberry is working on a non-partisan local expert to instruct the Commission on the current state of HDTV in the United States. Commissioner Walker also suggested local experts at vendors like Good Vibes. The Commission agreed to invite a vendor to get a handle on the consumer’s call for HDTV. Commissioner Gladney suggested that the focus should be on the consumer, and the discussion shouldn’t get too technical. The Commission directed staff to make preparations to take the public’s questions via e-mail and telephone during the Study Session in Champaign. The Commission then developed a draft agenda which is below.

**TASK ASSIGNMENTS**

The Commission assigned specific tasks to better facilitate the HDTV forum on October 8<sup>th</sup>:

Commissioner McDonnell – To work on finalizing arrangements with local broadcasters to make presentations and/or answer Commission questions.

Commissioner Walker -- To invite local vendors to address the Commission on the consumer demand for HDTV. She will also obtain a handout for the Commission and the public.

Jeff Hamilton – To make arrangements to take the live viewing audience’s questions via e-mail and telephone. Will also take steps to accommodate the needs of panelists and presenters.

**FORUM DRAFT AGENDA**

1. Regular Commission business – Commissioner Atterberry
2. Introduction to HDTV – Commissioner McDonnell,
3. Presentation by local HDTV expert(s) – Steve Brown
4. Panel discussion with local broadcasters and Insight Communications
5. Local vendor presentations on current consumer demand in Champaign-Urbana

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Hamilton  
Telecommunications/AV Technician  
City of Champaign