

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

DATE: July 21, 2004
Wednesday, 4:30 p.m.

PLACE: Urbana Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT:	CITY OF CHAMPAIGN Richard Atterberry Giraldo Rosales Karen Walker Brian Silverman	CITY OF URBANA Barb Gladney Jim Hayes Kevin Maxson Peter Resnick
	PARKLAND	UI Stan Yagi

MEMBERS ABSCENT: Tom McDonnell

STAFF PRESENT: Chris Foster
Jeff Hamilton

OTHERS PRESENT: Melody Brucker (Insight), Art Symbersky (Insight), and Dave Treat (Insight)

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 4:33 PM

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions or corrections were made to the agenda

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Silverman nominated Richard Atterberry for chairman. Commissioner Rosales seconded the nomination. Commissioner Silverman moved to make Commissioner Atterberry chairman. He was voted in unanimously.

Commissioner Silverman nominated Kevin Maxson for Vice-Chair. Commissioner Yagi seconded the nomination. Commissioner Silverman moved to make Commissioner Maxson vice-chairman. He was voted in unanimously.

Commissioner Silverman nominated Barb Gladney for Secretary. Commissioner Maxson seconded the nomination. Commissioner Silverman moved to make Commissioner Gladney secretary. She was voted in unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the April 14th Study Session and the April 21st Regular Meeting were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioner Gladney wanted to clarify that the local channels that our provided by satellite, do not include the P.E.G channels.

Jeff Hamilton has asked Insight to change the location of the return address on their bills. Some bills were being mailed to the City of Champaign instead of Insight.

Sandra Lentz of Urbana, Illinois addressed the Commission about the due dates on the cable bills from Insight. She feels that they do not provide enough time for customers to mail out the bill, and something needs to be done.

Melody Brucker from Insight responded by saying that Insight does have concerns about their billing practices. They have so many customers that they send out bills every 3 days. There is a 45-day grace period on bills, before late fees are assessed. You can pay your bill with credit cards, or have it taken out of your checking account automatically. One billing house is used for all of Insight's bills, so it is not possible for the bills to be specific to Champaign-Urbana.

Commissioner Gladney suggested Insight put a mailer in their bills that addresses the concerns of their customers. The flyer could also explain Insight's billing practices.

POLITICAL CONTENT ON PEG CHANNELS

Commissioner Silverman was concerned about the Martin Luther King Jr. Program that aired on UPTV many times. The program included a speech by Barack Obama, which included political content. Commissioner Silverman thought we could have a policy that called for no political programming during election campaigns, with the exception of candidate's forum or debates. He added that Champaign's Channel 5 already has such a policy, and Urbana should consider one.

Urbana City Attorney Steve Holz wanted to make clear that different rules apply to Champaign and Urbana's channels because Urbana has public access. Public access operates under different rules than what government access does.

Commissioner Silverman felt that you could keep certain content off the channel, I.E. run all political programming or none at all.

Mr. Holz stated that public access is a citizen owned service. How can we fairly run public access programming without discriminating or denying anyone their right.

UPTV Coordinator Chris Foster stated that he was in favor of developing a policy on political programming that is produced by UPTV. He does not believe in a policy for public access programming because that is not what public access is about. Equal access is provided because anyone can bring in a tape. Government produced programming and public access programming are scheduled by different rules.

Commissioner Silverman thinks something needs to be in place for this Fall, since it is going to be a hotly contested race.

Commissioner Gladney thinks it is a discussion for the UPTV Commission.

Commissioner Silverman wanted to defer the issue to the next Joint Cable Commission meeting.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Commissioner Maxson had nothing to report for the technical committee, but Commissioner Resnick was asked to join the committee, and he accepted.

STAFF REPORT

Chris Foster provided a quick report on his visit to the Alliance for Community Media Conference.

Jeff Hamilton noted that \$1,400 that was unspent last year, was brought into this year's budget, making it \$6,700. Mr. Hamilton also touched on his trip to the Alliance for Community Media Conference.

CATV SYSTEMS OPERATOR

Art Symbersky of Insight stated that subscriber numbers were fluctuating as usual due to students leaving town. Insight did see an increase for digital and high-speed internet customers. Customer Service goals were met in April and June but fell a little bit short in May. They have 29 drops on the ground and buried 400 in June. On June 15th Insight added National Geographic and G4TechTV were added to the classic service.

Commissioner Resnick asked about the status of HD programming on Insight.

Melody Brucker stated that WILL will probably be launched in HD by August 2004. WAND is releasing some of their national feed in HD. Fox is transmitting in HD and hope to be up in the Fall. Some channels are there and some of them are behind, the hours being released are pretty minimal at this time but they are increasing.

PEG CHANNEL REPORTS

Champaign Cable Channel 5

Jeff Hamilton from Cable Channel 5 stated that their new local programming hours were down 7%. Imported programming went up 39%, 30 hours more than last year. Bulletin board hours down 31%, which reflects that they are replaying more programming. Started televising three new meetings and picked up a few live events from their council chambers. Looking to add more internal productions in the future. Have been creative in trying to find programming, including getting the rights to a Channel 3 produced program on tornado preparedness. Also they added their program guide to the city website.

Urbana Public Television

Chris Foster from UPTV stated that 270 hours of city meetings were broadcast on UPTV. They added the Zoning Board and the Plan Steering Commission. They had 12.5 hours of city produced programming; they hope to increase that number. 252 hours of public access programming, which increased in recent months. Imported programming was reduced significantly due to the Annenberg Channel programming running its course. There were 659 total hours of new programming and the bulletin board hours came out as about 7 hours a day on the channel. Additionally UPTV is in the beginning stages of creating studio to increase programming.

UI 7

David Thiel coordinates UI 7 and they had a large number of new programming, since they pretty much run SCOLA on UI 7 all day. Some student newscasts are aired on the channel on an irregular basis. In the next fiscal year UI 7 is hoping to increase the number of student broadcasts on the channel. 8400 hours of new programming and 38 hours of locally produced programming. Mr. Thiel wanted to add that the new antennae WILL needs for HD broadcast is currently being installed and that WILL will probably be broadcasting digitally by mid August.

PCETV (Parkland)

Commissioner Gladney reported PCETV had 52 hours of local programming and 492 hours of imported programming. The average about 6 hours of bulletin board a day and Parkland produces about 68 productions, 47 of which are done in the studio.

Commissioner Gladney added the annual PEG inserts for the cable bills are going to put in bills for the Fall and the Spring. It will cost about \$1,000 to make 66,000 bookmarks, which may be something people would keep. Commissioner Silverman made a motion to allow Mrs. Gladney to decide what she wants to do with the inserts, as long as it is within the \$1,000 range. Commissioner Yagi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gladney set-up a meeting on August 24th at 12:00 PM to talk about the upcoming PEG Study Session in October. Davie Thiel stated that WILL could host the meeting.

NATOA CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

It was decided that Chairman Atterberry and Commissioner Walker would attend the NATOA conference in San Francisco.

Commissioner Silverman moved that we spend the funds necessary to send Mr. Atterberry and Mrs. Walker to the NATOA Conference. Commissioner Gladney seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

CABLE COMPLIANCE PROCESS

Jeff Hamilton stated we are supposed to have a cable compliance committee, and he wasn't sure if we had one. A meeting was setup to meet with Insight on August 5th at 11:00 AM to start reviewing compliance documents.

Commissioner Silverman stated that we didn't have a compliance committee.

Commissioner Maxson, Commissioner Resnick, and Chairman Atterberry expressed interest.

SET MEETING DATES

The time of the study sessions was changed from 4:30 PM to 4:00 PM.

Commissioner Gladney made a motion to create new language for the by-laws that stated "the day and time of study sessions shall be determined by the chair with direction of the commission members". Commissioner Maxson seconded it.

The motion passed with a vote of 8-0.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Silverman acknowledged Insight for producing the 4th July parade.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 6:28 PM.