

**CHAMPAIGN-URBANA CABLE TELEVISION AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
STUDY SESSION**

DATE: November 9, 2005
Wednesday, 4:00 p.m.

PLACE: Champaign Council Chambers
102 N. Neil Street, Champaign, IL

MEMBERS PRESENT:	CITY OF CHAMPAIGN Richard Atterberry Karen Walker	CITY OF URBANA Barb Gladney Danielle Chynoweth Durl Kruse
	PARKLAND Tom McDonnell	UI Stan Yagi

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brian Silverman, Giraldo Rosales, Peter Resnick

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff Hamilton, Chris Foster

Call To Order

Chair Atterberry called the meeting to order, and reviewed the purpose of the study session and the report of the Public Access Study Committee.

Report of the Public Access Study Committee

Barb Gladney introduced the members of the Public Access Study Committee and described its history and activities, including enlisting the help of Sue Buske of The Buske Group. Gladney then reviewed the components of the Committee's report.

Assessment of Local Interest in Public Access

Kali Boyden described the progress of UPTV membership and strategic efforts used to recruit additional membership.

Chris Foster reviewed the breakdown of UPTV's programming hours.

Deb Rugg spoke about the League of Women Voters involvement in Public Access.

Future of Public Access

Randall Cotton shared various programming ideas and how a community media center could impact the community.

Dennis Roberts communicated his prior experience with public access in Tucson as a creative tool with a huge range of possibilities.

Public Access Needs Assessment

Randall Cotton submitted a petition signed by over 500 citizens supporting public access. He added that once people understand what the issues are, they are really supportive of strong access to public media.

Kimberly Kranich presented a survey that was mailed and available online. The survey gauged the community's awareness of public access and their ideas for its usage. 115 responses were received, including 76 different organizations.

Questions/Remarks from the Commission

Karen Walker suggested a separate web site for Public Access in order to establish an identity for each of the channels and facilitate the future needs assessment.

Deb Rugg remarked that if there was a web site making Public Access more visible, it would provide another reason for people to use cable over satellite.

Kali Boyden noted that if the Commission decides to approve a separate web site, it can easily be done based on the template that has already been created.

Durl Kruse asked how the Commission was going to go about starting the process of doing the things mentioned in the report.

Chair Atterberry replied that the process starts 3 years ahead of time which would be in the spring. He suggested beginning the process at the January quarterly meeting. He suggested the Commission could advance a number of Resolutions for discussion to be forwarded to the Councils, outlining the Commission's support of the actions items included in the report.

Jeff Hamilton informed the Commission that staff level discussions have taken place regarding renewal of the cable franchise.

Danielle Chynoweth stressed the importance of providing the report to the Councils, along with the context and information behind it. She also mentioned that there were staff level discussions occurring in Urbana as well.

Tom McDonnell requested that Parkland be considered as a stakeholder in providing the training in video production. He further questioned what the levels of compromise and approach would be when renegotiating the franchise.

Danielle Chynoweth responded that the initial position should be that we would accept nothing less than what is presented in the report.

Stan Yagi expressed concern that 2009 was a long way away and that it was essential to work towards the goals considering the amount of increasing cable competition with satellite and its affect on franchise fees.

Durl Kruse questioned whether the Commission was willing to have the Committee continue to exist for assistance in the future.

Chair Atterberry replied that at the January meeting, the Commission discuss that and amend the original enabling resolution or come up with a new one to define a continuing role.

Stan Yagi thanked Barbara and the Committee for their hard work.

Adjournment

Chair Atterberry adjourned the meeting at 5:45 PM.