

**CHAMPAIGN-URBANA CABLE TELEVISION AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES**

DATE: June 6, 2007
4:00 p.m.

PLACE: Urbana Council Chambers
400 S Vine, Urbana, IL

MEMBERS PRESENT:	CHAMPAIGN Rick Atterberry Karen Walker	URBANA Peter Resnick Durl Kruse Danielle Chynoweth (<i>by phone</i>)
	PARKLAND Tom McDonnell	U of I

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barbara Gladney, Stan Yagi

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff Hamilton – City of Champaign
Chris Foster – City of Urbana

OTHERS PRESENT: Barry Orton, Susan Massel, David Devereaux-Weber – Consultants

Call to Order

Chair Atterberry called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

Cable TV Needs Assessment Focus Group

The consultants introduced themselves to the Commission and provide a brief summary of the areas of the cable television needs assessment each was handling. They then updated the Commission on the status of the needs assessment process.

Mr. Orton reported he is in the middle of the franchise fee audit; which he hopes to complete by July 1st. He stated he received the documentation for the Urbana franchise/PEG fees, but that Insight requested more time to “recalculate” some of the figures related to the Champaign franchise fee.

Mr. Devereaux-Weber reported that the technical audit is also progressing nicely. He completed his signal quality assessments with Insight’s staff and performed a visual inspection of some of the cable wiring in the right-of-way. He reported that overall the signal quality is very good. He noted there is a lot of “bare coax” in our system, but that this is not causing us any signal problems at this time. He reported he saw a few broken lashing wires during his field survey, but stated that this isn’t a violation – just a maintenance concern. He will work with both Cities to inspect subscriber drops for grounding issues in the weeks ahead.

Mrs. Massel reported on the two focus groups she had held earlier that day. She reported that her work has just begun, but thus far the focus groups seem to indicate that the public doesn't see a need for a separate public access channel because those services are already available from UPTV. Commissioner Chynoweth strongly disagreed, stating this contradicts the findings of the Public Access Study Committee – a group which researched the need for a separate channel for over a year. She stated that our community is very supportive of public access and wants more community media.

Mr. Orton reviewed the preliminary results of the telephone survey with the Commission. The findings of both the Champaign and Urbana surveys were very similar. The survey found that overall most customers are happy with their cable service. He also reported that the PEG viewership numbers aren't too bad when you look at the numbers closely:

- 31% of subscribers watch a PEG channel at least once a month
- 66% of subscribers believe the PEG channels are important
- 41% of subscribers are willing to pay to support the PEG channels, of which 70% are willing to pay \$1 a month or more
- 30% of subscribers support the creation of a new public access channel, of which 60% are willing to pay \$1 a month or more.

Mrs. Massel asked if there are any agreements between the cities and the University of Illinois/Parkland College giving them each a PEG channel. Neither the Commission nor staff knew of any such agreement, but suggested that she contact Barbara Gladney or Dr. John Peterson (former Commission Chair).

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Hamilton
City of Champaign