

**CHAMPAIGN-URBANA CABLE TELEVISION AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
QUARTERLY MINUTES**

DATE: July 16, 2008
4:30 PM

PLACE: Urbana City Council Chambers
400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

CHAMPAIGN	URBANA
Rick Atterberry	Barbara Gladney
Karen Walker	Durl Kruse
	Peter Resnick

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
Stan Yagi

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ken Pirok, Giraldo Rosales

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff Hamilton – City of Champaign
Kate Gorman – City of Urbana

OTHERS PRESENT: Art Svymbersky – Comcast Communications
John Quinn – AT&T
Carl Caldwell – WILL/UI-7
Kate Brickman – UI-7
Chris Foster – PCTV

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Rick Atterberry asked Ms. Gorman to make note of the attendance.

3. MODIFICATIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Atterberry suggested that the “AT&T Boxes” agenda item be addressed during AT&T’s System Operator Report. Vice-Chair Walker moved to approve the agenda with the modification, Commissioner Stan Yagi seconded. The modified agenda was approved unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Resnick moved to approve the April 16, 2008 minutes as submitted. Commissioner Yagi seconded. The April 16 minutes were approved unanimously.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Hamilton informed the Commission of a change in Comcast's local office number. The new number is toll-free: 888-736-6612. Mr. Hamilton stated that Champaign received 9 cable complaints this quarter, and Urbana received 5.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Cable Franchise Renewal Update

Mr. Hamilton stated that the Refranchising Committee had approved and sent their first draft to Comcast on April 24th. Comcast responded to the submission on June 20th. The first negotiating session with Comcast is scheduled for August 1st.

B. Broadband Access Committee Appointments

Commissioner Resnick stated that at a recent community input meeting, they had created a list of nominees to serve on the Broadband Committee. Commissioner Resnick stated that he would chair the committee, and that he was open to additional suggestions for members not currently on the submitted list. Chair Atterberry stated that former Commissioner Danielle Chynoweth asked to continue to participate on the Committee. Commissioner Yagi motioned to adopt the list of submitted nominees, Vice-Chair Walker seconded. The list of nominees was approved.

Commissioner Resnick stated that the Broadband Committee would be assessing the state of connectivity in the Champaign-Urbana area, the current available infrastructure and what will be needed to meet future needs.

C. PEG Inserts

Mr. Hamilton updated the Commission on the progress of printing this year's PEG insert. He reported that each PEG channel has updated and approved their section of the insert. He stated that 35,000 inserts are needed for the September mailing, costing approximately \$700 with shipping. He informed the Commission that in the future Comcast would pass along the cost of insertion to the Commission, effectively doubling the cost of doing the PEG inserts.

Commissioners voiced support for keeping the insert and concern over Comcast's new position on the insertion fee. Vice-Chair Walker suggested looking into sending the PEG inserts through city billings. The Commission voted unanimously to fund and proceed with the September PEG insert.

7. REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

There were no Committee reports.

B. Staff Reports

Champaign

Mr. Hamilton reported that Champaign has renewed their video production intern position for the second year and recently hired a new intern, Roy Alvarez. Mr. Hamilton also reported that City of Champaign staff will meet with Comcast staff on September 9th to conduct an annual franchise compliance audit. He invited

Commissioners to participate in the audit. He also reported that the Commission's annual report to the Champaign City Council is due this fall. Mr. Hamilton asked Commissioners to let him know if they wanted to help with the report.

Urbana

Ms. Gorman reported that the revised UPTV Policies and Procedures were approved by the Urbana City Council in May and that all members were notified of the changes. Seven new local series debuted this quarter, and the meetings of the Urbana Park District Board began being televised in June. Ms. Gorman is now in the process of hiring an intern to work weekends at UPTV to extend the station's availability to the public.

C. System Operator Reports

Comcast

Mr. Svymbersky announced that Comcast will carry the *Big Ten Network* and *Big Ten HD* beginning August 15th. Mr. Svymbersky stated that all the channel lineup changes announced at the last meeting were implemented by April 30th. The off-air digital channels are available to every customer, even those with the basic cable package.

Discussion ensued concerning billing and some of the channel changes. Chair Atterberry asked why the local number was changed by Comcast. Mr. Svymbersky replied that it was a consolidation measure and the calls concerning video, repair and billing are all answered locally, while internet and phone questions are answered out of the area.

AT&T

John Quinn introduced AT&T's U-Verse system stating that they provide video services over copper and fiber optic telephone lines. Mr. Quinn stated that AT&T is committed to carrying PEG channels at the same quality or better than regular commercial broadcasts. On U-Verse, all local PEG channels will be available from a menu on channel 99. Several Commissioners expressed concern over AT&T's handling of PEG channels, concerning 3rd party DVR recording of the PEG channels, matching Urbana's 2% PEG fee allocation and reluctance to build out the entire C-U area. Mr. Quinn stated that many of these issues could be addressed after AT&T notifies each municipality that U-Verse is ready to launch in our area (10 days notice).

AT&T Boxes

Chair Atterberry gave a presentation showing photos of the AT&T telecommunications cabinets in his neighborhood. He asked if AT&T will be responsible for cleaning up the graffiti that the boxes seem to attract. Mr. Quinn stated that cleaning the graffiti would be done by AT&T. Chair Atterberry asked if there would now be two boxes where once there was only one box. Mr. Quinn replied that two boxes were necessary, since the old ones are for the copper system and the new boxes are for the fiber system.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of Officers

Chair Atterberry announced to the Commission that Commissioners Chynoweth and McDonnell had very recently resigned. He also stated that Commissioner Gladney had requested not to be reappointed as Secretary, and discussion ensued regarding the Commission's feeling that the Secretary position was not necessary.

Commissioner Gladney moved to recommend removal of the Secretary position. Vice-Chair Walker seconded. The motion was approved. Mr. Hamilton stated that this issue will be brought back to the Commission for a formal vote after he discusses the issue with both City Attorneys.

The Commission decided that per the Commission's rules, a Secretary was needed until final action is taken regarding the position's removal. Commissioner Resnick nominated Commissioner Yagi as Secretary. Vice-Chair Walker seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Resnick made a motion to reappoint Rick Atterberry for Chair and Karen Walker for Vice-Chair. Seconded by Commissioner Yagi. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Annual PEG Reports

CGTV

Mr. Hamilton presented CGTV's annual report. He stated that the number of hours of local programming dropped from the previous year, due to a number of meeting cancellations. He also shared that CGTV has earned an honorable mention award from NATOA, produced a US Senate candidate forum, televised two Illinois Commerce Commission Hearings regarding utility increases, and produced 115 live meetings over the past year. CGTV is looking forward to dabbling in high definition content in the coming year.

UPTV

Ms. Gorman presented the report for UPTV, stating the station's emphasis on creating more locally produced programs in the preceding year was successful, with 17 new series debuting in 2007-08. UPTV staff also recorded and broadcasted several City sponsored environmental forums as well as the City's 175th Birthday Celebrations. Ms. Gorman stated that UPTV has formed relationships with several community organizations and local high schools, and was working to train and develop programming with them.

UI-7

Carl Caldwell presented the report for UI-7, and introduced Kate Brickman as UI-7's new Program Coordinator. Mr. Caldwell stated that UIUC's Chancellor had supported and approved funding to hire staff and create more programming for the channel. The Chancellor feels UI-7 is an underutilized resource for the university, and wishes to expand UI-7's services for our community.

PCTV

Chris Foster presented the report for PCTV, stating that in 2007-08, Parkland produced 61 programs and 42 promos, and the station averaged about 3 hours of bulletin board a day. He shared that two new series were produced, Parkland College's commencement ceremony was broadcast live this year, and that they plan to bring back *The Parkland Challenge* next year.

C. NATOA Conference

Mr. Hamilton stated that the annual NATOA conference will be held September 17-20, 2008, in Atlanta, GA. He estimates the total cost for one member to attend is \$1800, and since the Commission budget for the conference is \$2800, only one member would be able to attend this year unless the Commission cut back on some other expenditure. Commissioner Resnick stated that he could attend the conference and research community broadband issues. After some discussion, the Commission decided Commissioner Resnick would attend the conference. Mr. Hamilton will make the necessary travel arrangements.

9. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was no audience participation.

10. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Vice-Chair Walker asked if the study session and quarterly meeting could both be scheduled for the same start time, instead of one at 4:00 PM and the other at 4:30 PM. Chair Atterberry agreed that the time could be changed. The Commission unanimously approved changing the start time of regular quarterly meetings to 4:00 PM.

Chair Atterberry thanked Comcast for recording and televising the Independence Day parade.

11. SET NEXT MEETING TIME AND ADJOURNMENT

The next study session meeting date was set for October 8th at 4:00 p.m. in Champaign. The next regular meeting date was set for October 15th at 4:00 p.m. in the Urbana City Council Chambers.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Submitted by,
Kate Gorman
UPTV Station Manager
City of Urbana