

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

**DATE:** July 8, 2009  
4:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Champaign Council Chambers  
102 North Neil Street, Champaign, IL

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>CHAMPAIGN</b>	<b>URBANA</b>
	Rick Atterberry Kyle Harrison Karen Walker	Durl Kruse Peter Resnick David Gehrig Barbara Gladney
	<b>PARKLAND</b>	<b>UNIVERSITY of ILLINOIS</b>
	Chris Foster	Kate Brickman

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Giraldo Rosales

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Art Svymbersky, Kristin Pollack, Jim Lee – Comcast

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Chair Rick Atterberry welcomed Kyle Harrison to the Cable Commission.

**3. MODIFICATIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the Study Session Meeting of April 8, 2009 and the Regular Quarterly Meeting of April 15, 2009 were approved as presented.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

Jeff Hamilton reviewed the correspondence in the Commission's packets, including: notices from Comcast regarding channel lineup and fee changes, a change to Urbana's City Code relevant to cable and video providers, a change to Champaign's City Code relevant to the video service provider fee, a Resolution to extend Champaign's cable

franchise agreement to 10/31/09, 16 Champaign cable complaints, and 4 Urbana cable complaints.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Cable Franchise Renewal Update**

Chair Atterberry reported that Champaign went into the Formal Renewal Process with Comcast. An RFRP was issued and Comcast provided a written response. Mr. Hamilton reported that the RFRP was sent to multiple cable operators in an attempt to encourage competition, but no other companies responded.

Commissioner Gehrig reported Urbana also did an RFRP and received Comcast's Formal Proposal. Urbana's City Council will have to decide what to do at this point.

Commissioner Kruse said the Commission was formed with a joint franchise in mind and asked if the role would be affected by a split renewal? Chair Atterberry stated we've always had 2 separate (different) franchises and that the Commission serves at the pleasure of the two Councils.

### **B. AT&T U-Verse Update**

Chair Atterberry reported U-Verse has now launched in Champaign and Urbana. AT&T did a demo in Savoy on June 20, 2009. He said he was pleased to see economically-challenged areas of town are in AT&T's initial rollout.

Mr. Hamilton reported that each of the four PEG channels is requesting carriage on U-verse, and that some technical assessments have already taken place. He also reported that AT&T has agreed to a similar complaint process as that currently used by the cities with Comcast. The Commission agreed it was interested in reviewing citizen complaints about U-verse, just like it does for Comcast.

Commissioner Brickman reported that AT&T has problems getting connectivity to UI-7. She said that CITES would have to build out T-1 lines on campus and will charge UI-7 an installation and recurring fee for doing so. She said UI-7 can't afford that.

Commissioner Kruse stated the 2% PEG fee can be used to pay for things like that. He suggested discussing the issue with the cities. He would hate if UI-7 couldn't be on U-verse with the other PEG channels.

Chair Atterberry suggested that the University's Legal department review the state franchising law and see what AT&T's obligations are.

Commissioner Gladney said it would be to AT&T's benefit to have UI-7 on their system, even if it cost them more.

### **C. PEG Marketing Update**

Commissioner Walker showed the Commission the PEG website which will be launched soon. The URL is CUCABLETV.com. A logo was also designed for the PEG channels. Urbana will host the site. She reviewed the website design with the Commission. She said the site is almost done. When complete, someone needs to take responsibility for updating and fixing the site and suggested a webmaster be hired to do so. PEG Managers would provide featured programming to the webmaster. We need to market this site to the public too.

Commissioner Resnick suggested including the URL as a “bug” on each channel.

Kate Gorman suggested we could also create a short video promoting the website.

Commissioner Resnick also suggested adding links directly to Comcast and AT&T on the complaint page, to help customers looking for that information.

Commissioner Walker asked if they could use PEG funds to pay the webmaster. She said we might need to add information about U-verse too.

Commissioner Gladney asked if the site could be expanded if we get a 5<sup>th</sup> PEG channel. Commissioner Walker said the grid and the site can be expanded to accommodate that.

Chair Atterberry suggested Commissioner Walker meet with the PEG channel coordinators and discuss funding issues.

## **7. REPORTS**

### **A. Committee Reports**

Broadband Access Committee (BAC) – Commissioner Resnick reported that both City Councils have heard about the project and agreed to pursue it (with no financial commitment yet). Writing teams are now drafting various parts of the grant proposal. The grant rules were just released and some changes need to be made to the plan.

Commissioner Resnick recommended appointing Safiya Noble to the BAC. An IMC Intern (Laura Allred) is also helping with the writing teams. The BAC also held three community workshops to educate the public about the project and gather input.

Commissioner Resnick moved that Safiya Noble be appointed to the BAC. Seconded by Commissioner Gladney. Motion passed 9-0.

### **B. Staff Reports**

Urbana – Ms. Gorman stated that the three BAC public forums were recorded and are running on UPTV. Urbana’s Comcast compliance check will be completed by the next meeting. She also reported she will be a guest presenter at the ACM Conference next week.

Champaign – Mr. Hamilton reported that he has been busy clerking for the BAC. He also reported that the Champaign City Council raised the cable franchise fee to 5% for both Comcast and AT&T U-verse. He said that CGTV has now produced 13 episodes of Champaign Connection, and have begun producing the show in Parkland’s studio. He also said that CGTV purchased some multi-camera remote production gear which they plan to put to good use.

### **C. Operator Reports**

Kristin Pollack reported that 4/25/09 was Comcast Cares Day and that Comcast employees and families volunteered their time in Champaign-Urbana and Danville. She also said Foundation grants were given to the Boy’s & Girl’s Club and the local food bank.

Art Svymbersky said that the Commissioner’s packets included information about channel lineup changes and a decrease in some rates, and asked if the Commission had any questions.

Commissioner Gladney asked what a cable card is. Mr. Svymbersky explained a cable card can take the place of a cable box if your TV will accept one.

Commissioner Walker asked why there are empty channels on the basic tier. Jim Lee replied that there are channels in those locations, but that they are only tunable with a digital box.

Commissioner Resnick asked if the “tiling” problems on various channels are a result of line problems or too much data. How is that reported to Comcast? Mr. Lee answered that they troubleshoot those problems regularly. It is sometimes a hardware problem. He said customers should call in the problem like normal and a tech will check it out.

Commissioner Resnick asked if WEIU is available in HD yet. Mr. Lee replied, not yet, but when they launch it, Comcast will carry it.

Commissioner Walker said that since CUCABLETV.com helps promote Comcast’s channels, she wondered if Comcast would consider a donation to operate the website. Mr. Svymbersky suggested sending that request in writing, and that corporate will consider it.

Chair Atterberry stated he thought the Big 10 Network was supposed to move to the digital tier after the first year. Mr. Svymbersky said he hasn’t heard anything about moving it.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Election of Officers**

Commissioner Gladney nominated Rick Atterberry for Chair. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. Nominations were closed. Motion approved 9-0.

Commissioner Gladney nominated Commissioner Walker for Vice-Chair. Commissioner Foster seconded the motion. Nominations were closed. Motion approved 9-0.

### **B. Annual PEG Channel Reports**

Commissioner Foster presented the PCTV Annual Report. He stated the channel averages only about 2 hours/day of Bulletin Board, that they are now running NASA TV, are producing several new shows, and ran some successful ad campaigns. They also held a live broadcast of Commencement and are working to get PCTV on Mediacom and U-verse. Closed captioning equipment has been purchased for future use as well.

Commissioner Brickman presented the UI-7 Annual Report. She reported that the hours of local programming has tripled now that SCOLA isn't carried any longer. Broadcast Journalism students have been using the channel more. Lots of video content at the University is being discovered. They also purchased production equipment and covered multiple events this year, including the election and Commencement.

Commissioner Kruse said there are multiple guest lecturers on campus regularly and asked if it is possible to record and show those on UI-7. Commissioner Brickman said that UI staff can request one of multiple video production services on campus, and that UI-7 is always looking for new content.

Ms. Gorman presented the UPTV Annual Report. She reviewed the various categories of programming and said that the Open Media Project has been their biggest project this year. They did two youth video workshops this spring, and are assisting with school and student productions. There were seven new public access series this year and 10 old series which have produced over 50 episodes each.

Commissioner Kruse asked how many UPTV members are from Champaign vs. Urbana. Ms. Gorman said she didn't know the exact number, but more were from Champaign.

Jeff Hamilton presented the CGTV Annual Report. He reported that the programming numbers were about the same as last year. He reported that CGTV received a national award from NATOA and that Champaign Connection has proven to be very popular. He said that CGTV produced coverage of three candidate debates this year, and also replayed a fourth. CGTV televised 122 live City meetings this year.

### **C. 2009 NATOA Conference**

Mr. Hamilton reported that the Commission normally sends a member to the annual NATOA conference, which will be held September 30-October 2 in New Orleans. He estimated the cost to send a member to the conference to be about \$1700.

Chair Atterberry asked if any Commissioners were interested in attending.

Commissioner Gehrig said he'd consider going, but had to check his schedule.

Commissioner Walker suggested that if Commissioner Gehrig can't go, that Chair Atterberry be the alternate.

The Commission agreed to send a member to the NATOA conference and that the attendee is to notify Jeff Hamilton by August 1<sup>st</sup> so he can help with travel arrangements.

**9. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was no participation from the audience.

**10. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

Chair Atterberry welcomed Kyle Harrison again to the Commission.

Commissioner Harrison thanked the group and said he was glad to be on the Cable Commission.

**11. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT**

The next Study Session meeting was set for October 14, 2009 in Champaign and the Regular Quarterly Meeting was set for October 21, 2009 in Urbana.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Hamilton  
Telecommunications/AV Technician  
City of Champaign