

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

**DATE:** April 21, 2010  
4:00 PM

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

<b>CHAMPAIGN</b>	<b>URBANA</b>
Rick Atterberry	Durl Kruse
Giraldo Rosales	David Gehrig
Karen Walker	Barbara Gladney
	Peter Folk

**PARKLAND COLLEGE**  
Chris Foster

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kyle Harrison, Kate Brickman

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jeff Hamilton – City of Champaign  
Jason Liggett – City of Urbana

**OTHERS PRESENT:** John Quinn – AT&T  
Pete Resnick – Broadband Access Committee

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Chair Atterberry asked Jason Liggett to note the attendance. He also welcomed Peter Folk as a new Commissioner representing the City of Urbana and thanked Pete Resnick for his seven years of service on the Commission.

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

The agenda was approved as presented.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes for October 21, 2009, January 13, 2010, January 20, 2010, and March 29, 2010, were approved as presented.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

Jeff Hamilton reviewed several documents that were included in the packet including a letter from Chair Atterberry to the Champaign City Council concerning broadband policy. A summarization of the UC2B grant, communication from Illinois NATOA, AT&T's U-Verse annual report, and Comcast channel changes were included in the packet as well. Mr. Hamilton

reported that the City of Champaign logged three cable complaints last quarter while the City of Urbana logged four. Chair Atterberry noted that in the past Commissioners received forewarning about Comcast rate increases; however, this time they received it as a bill stuffer at the same time as other customers.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

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

Chair Atterberry stated that progress has been made on Champaign's franchise and he is fairly confident that there might be a need for a special meeting before July to discuss the franchise renewal. Mr. Hamilton noted that the City of Champaign is having success utilizing the informal process and the formal process has been put on hold. He noted that staff has a general understanding of what the franchise will look like and now they are looking at more detailed aspects.

Commissioner Gladney asked if the two cities were working together on the franchise or separately. Mr. Hamilton stated that Champaign and Urbana were negotiating separately.

Jason Liggett reported that the City of Urbana's Legal Department is handling the negotiations for Urbana.

Chair Atterberry noted that he is only involved with the negotiations for Champaign, not Urbana.

### **B. UC2B Grant Updates**

Pete Resnick reported that the below ground portion of the grant was accepted by the two cities and the University. The UC2B Technical Committee is currently meeting to discuss what exactly they will be doing, where the fiber lines will be run, and if there will be a building used as a node. This needs to be decided upfront because an environmental assessment is due by July 1, 2010. The UC2B Policy Committee will start meeting about budgeting. UC2B did not receive any funding for the above ground proposals. They have put together another proposal for round 2 of the grant process.

Commissioner Walker asked if there would be a conflict should the community be chosen for the Google fiber project. Mr. Resnick stated that the two projects would actually coexist well together as the fiber backbone would already be in place via the UC2B grant from the federal government. Commissioner Gladney asked if digging up of streets would be necessary to lay fiber for the UC2B project. Mr. Resnick reported that the Technical Committee is currently discussing their options. Some digging will be necessary, but directional boring is also an option. Commissioner Gehrig asked how often the Policy and Technical Committee hold meetings. Mr. Resnick stated that the Technical Committee meets weekly and the Policy Committee meets twice a month. Commissioner Kruse asked if the original design is being moved forward or if changes will be made. Mr. Resnick stated that the Technical Committee is using the basic design, but are looking at all of their options. Commissioner Folk wondered if the environmental assessment will be for the overall plan over the next three years, or in phases. H also stated that the Technical Committee is evaluating the map for the overall design.

### **C. PEG Marketing Expenses**

Jeff. Hamilton reported that the PEG coordinators and some Commissioners discussed PEG marketing and website promotional options at their March 29<sup>th</sup> meeting and wanted to know what route the Commission would like to take. Commissioner Walker reported the group work

thus far included writing a press release and PSA, and creating a Facebook page. A promo video was also produced by Commissioner Foster. Commissioner Folk asked what sort of marketing plan (if any) was in place. Commissioner Walker mentioned the possibility of printing bookmarks that can be handed out at various events. Mr. Liggett provided information about radio spots and the fact that the Commission might want to put all the money into one station rather than varying it around for effectiveness. Commissioner Foster reported that under the current franchise agreement Comcast will broadcast the promo video free of charge. Chair Atterberry favored the printing route over radio spots with the limited amount of money that the Commission has to spend on marketing. Commissioner Kruse suggested advertising on the inside of MTD buses.

Commissioner Folk moved to make \$1200 available for a Commissioner to approve a marketing plan with the plan consisting of Comcast spots via our franchise agreement, social media, and print media in the form of bookmarks and advertisements on MTD buses. Commissioner Gehrig seconded this motion and it was passed unanimously by the Commission.

Commissioner Folk wondered what the purpose of the cucabletv.com website is and the possibility of hosting content. Commissioner Walker stated that cucabletv.com will be used to create awareness of the PEG channels, provide a program guide for each channel, and a central location to promote the channels. Chair Atterberry stated that the Commission doesn't currently have the server capacity to host video of all the stations, but that it is something that can be looked at in the future. Commissioner Folk asked if the stations had thought of utilizing a free video hosting site. Mr. Hamilton stated that the site was meant to be a central location for all four PEG stations, but with links to each stations individual site which would contain video content.

## **7. REPORTS**

**A. Committee Reports** -No report.

### **B. Staff Reports**

#### Urbana

Mr. Liggett reported that applications for the UPTV Station Manager were accepted until March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010. City staff is now sorting through those applications. UPTV staff has been busy with increased public access membership and producing new city related programs. The City recently purchased and installed a new robotic camera system in the City Council Chambers. UPTV plans to film the Urbana High School commencement ceremony and has begun working with youth through the local 4-H program.

Commissioner Gladney conveyed that the UPTV Commission would like to have a representative present during UPTV Station Manager interviews.

#### Champaign

Mr. Hamilton reported that CGTV recently hired a production intern to help work on city productions. CGTV has been testing live streaming for six weeks and creating a comprehensive video-on-demand library. They have also been working on a new CGTV webpage. Mr. Hamilton hopes to launch the live stream publicly within the next three to four weeks.

### **C. System Operator Reports**

#### AT&T U-Verse

John Quinn reported that the local ABC affiliate was launched on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010, as part of the U-Verse package. The City of Springfield PEG channels have been launched as part of channel 99. Mr. Quinn also reported that A Woman's Fund received the AT&T Investing in Illinois Award in the amount of \$5,000. AT&T is also investing in the Champaign County Economic Development Corporation. Chair Atterberry clarified that ABC had been WICS out of Springfield and is now the local WICD.

Commissioner Kruse asked about the progress on Commissioner Brickman's suggestion that UI-7 and PCTV be listed at the same level as the cities on channel 99. Mr. Quinn stated that he will follow up with Commissioner Brickman and AT&T's Internal PEG Manager. Commissioner Walker asked if AT&T would consider promoting PEG channels to their subscribers. Mr. Quinn stated that they are not currently doing this, but he can look into promotion efforts in the future.

Chair Atterberry asked for a broad plan of where U-verse service will be provided over the next year. Mr. Quinn couldn't give any information, but suggested residents contact AT&T staff to see if it's available at their household.

#### Comcast

Chair Atterberry noted that Comcast did not send a representative and did not provide a System Operator Report.

Commissioner Foster stated that PCTV has new programming broadcasting next month including the 2010 Parkland Challenge, Story Shop, and a Battle of the Bands.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Comcast's "World of More"**

Chair Atterberry reported that he and Mr. Hamilton met with Comcast representatives to discuss the process of customers receiving DTA boxes necessary for a full channel lineup. Mr. Hamilton stated that Comcast will provide two boxes per customer including governmental bodies. Customers can receive more boxes for an additional fee. Basic cable channels 2-20 will still be available without a box. Mr. Hamilton reported that Comcast representatives will be at the July 2010 Study Session meeting of the Commission to show and discuss the operations of these boxes. Chair Atterberry explained that with the installation of the DTA boxes, customers will lose local high definition channels. If they want to keep those high definition channels they will need to purchase a video switcher in addition to installing the DTA box. Mr. Hamilton stated that the boxes are available now to customers by request and it is a customer self-install. Comcast will charge customers to have a technician install the DTA box. He reported that on a case by case basis, Comcast will evaluate appropriate charges should a customer be physically unable to install the box.

### **B. Broadband Access Committee Membership Changes**

Mr. Hamilton reported that five members of the Broadband Access Committee have submitted their resignations due to conflicting appointments to the UC2B Technical Committee or Policy Board. Mr. Resnick stated that he would be willing to stay on the Broadband Access Committee as a member if needed. He suggested that the Broadband Access Committee produce a final report and then wind down the Committee. Commissioner Folk pointed out that the final report needs to be produced soon and given to the UC2B Technical and Policy Committees for reference. Commissioner Folk also stated that he would be in favor of keeping the Broadband Access Committee.

Chair Atterberry pointed out that a Commissioner would have to take over duties as chair of the Broadband Access Committee. He also suggested that the Broadband Access Committee produce a final report and then go from there. The Commission agreed to have Commissioner Folk chair the Broadband Access Committee. Commissioner Folk suggested that a member of the UC2B Policy Board join the Broadband Access Committee. Commissioner Folk also requested that Mr. Resnick remain on the Committee for the time being.

### **C. 2010 NATOA Conference**

Commissioner Walker asked that this be put on the agenda so Commissioners can check their availability. Mr. Hamilton reported that the conference will be held September 29 – October 1, 2010 in Washington D.C. and that the Commission has funds to send one Commissioner.

### **9. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - None**

### **10. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

Commissioner Walker pointed out that a Public Service Announcement regarding cucabletv.com was included in the Commission's packet.

Commissioner Gladney stated that she received an email from Comcast that they are switching antivirus software and asked if that affected her as a Mac user.

Commissioner Folk stated that he joined the Commission to preserve the public interest as technology surpasses traditional video services.

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

The next Study Session was set for July 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the Champaign Council Chambers. The next Quarterly Meeting was set for July 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the Urbana Council Chambers.

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.