

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

DATE: July 20, 2011
4:00 PM

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:	CHAMPAIGN	URBANA
	Rick Atterberry Karen Walker	Peter Folk
	PARKLAND	U of I
	Chris Foster	Kate Brickman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kyle Harrison, Giraldo Rosales, Chris Foster

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff Hamilton – City of Champaign
Jake Schumacher – City of Urbana

OTHERS PRESENT: John Quinn, Spencer Smith – AT&T
Art Svymbersky – Comcast

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

Lacking a quorum, neither were approved.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Hamilton presented notices from Comcast regarding channel line-up changes, and letters to the Champaign City Council regarding the potential dissolution of the Cable Commission. Champaign received five cable complaints during the previous quarter, and Urbana received four.

4. OLD BUSINESS

The potential move of the Commission from Champaign's administration to Urbana's was discussed. The move was occasioned by the potential dissolution of the Commission by the City of Champaign, who found the staffing and financial burdens of the Commission untenable. Mr. Hamilton reported that the discussion of the Commission was tabled at the Champaign City Council meeting. Mr. Schumacher reported that the City of Urbana was formulating a bare-bones budget in anticipation of taking over the administration of the Commission.

The new Champaign franchise agreement with Comcast is moving towards approval by the Champaign City Council on August 2.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

6. STAFF REPORTS

UPTV

Mr. Schumacher will attend the annual Alliance for Community Media (ACM) conference on behalf of UPTV. Work proceeds on restoring the UPTV Drupal website. UPTV recorded the Fourth of July Parade in place of Comcast, who will no longer do so.

CGTV

Mr. Hamilton reported that CGTV has a new website. CGTV won a first-place award from the ACM for their Champaign Fire Department-Ready to Serve video. They have just completed an hour-long documentary about the 150th anniversary of Champaign's founding, and finished the 25th episode of Champaign Connection. Commissioner Brickman asked if CGTV would share the anniversary documentary with the other PEG stations and was told yes.

7. OPERATOR REPORTS

AT&T

Mr. Quinn and Mr. Smith reported on the national progress of AT&T U-verse, and said 33% of Champaign households have been reached, of which 54% are low-income. Commissioner Folk asked about mobile capabilities: PEG channels are not a part of that, but continue to be delivered on U-verse channel 99. Mr. Schumacher noted that PEG channels cannot be recorded by DVR for on-demand viewing given their channel 99 location. Mr. Hamilton reported that Champaign uses a Slingbox to monitor CGTV on U-verse.

Comcast

Mr. Svymbersky reported that Comcast has caught up with burying cables. Commissioner Folk asked about the HD Weather Channel omitting the local forecast, and Mr. Svymbersky said he would report back on this at the next meeting. Comcast's "Internet Essential" will roll out this fall, for families with at least one child on the federal school lunch program, providing low-cost internet service, computers and training.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There are four members present of seven. New business could be conducted, or could be postponed until the next meeting. It was decided that Commissioner Folk's broadband access report would be the topic of a study session in October, and all other new business would be postponed until the next regular meeting. Commissioner Atterberry has submitted names of potential candidates for Commission members to the Urbana Mayor's office. The amended Urbana cable agreement was explained (a sentence pertaining to the UI and Parkland stations had not been struck as previously agreed in the final published version, and so was amended to strike the sentence).

9. ANNUAL PEG REPORTS

PCTV

Commissioner Foster was absent but the PEG report from Parkland College was submitted.

UI7

Commissioner Brickman reported on: UI7's transition from the College of Media to Public Affairs; a new distribution tool for campus video called Ensemble; the posting of the UI7 Coordinator job. Commissioner Folk asked about the technical capabilities of Ensemble.

CGTV

Mr. Hamilton reported that CGTV Online averages 435 hits a month; the number of live city meetings had increased by 25%; CGTV had aired candidate forums, and was planning to institute a new social media initiative involving Facebook and YouTube.

UPTV

Mr. Schumacher reported that UPTV continued to work with Urbana High students. UPTV had conducted projects with the GS-LIS Community Engagement class at UI, CU Mentoring, and Community Choices. Art Now! has now been on a full year, and production continues on Market Menu, Around Town with the UBA, Cop's Corner and other city-oriented programs. CU Sharing the Road won an award from the American Public Works Association. Special programs were produced from the Freedom Celebration and Sweetcorn Festival. The number of new local series more than doubled from the previous year, and static bulletin-board presentations were reduced by two-thirds.

10. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

The Commission's annual report is due in September. Mr. Hamilton solicited input. Commissioner Folk asked that it be sent to Commission members before going to Council. Barb Gladney's nameplate has been retired and will be sent to her.

11. NEXT MEETING

The Commission will meet for a study session at 4 pm October 12th in the Champaign City Council Chambers, and for a regular meeting at 4 pm on October 19th in the Urbana City Council Chambers.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 pm.

Submitted by Jake Schumacher