

**City of Lincoln**  
**Telecommunications/Cable Television Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes – October 24, 2013**

**Members Present:** Steve Egglund, Matt Hansen, Ed Hoffman, Linda Jewson, Jim Johnson, John Neal, Dara Troutman

**City Staff:** Diane Gonzolas, Beau Wolf

**Representatives of Time Warner Cable:** Ann Teget

**Call to Order**

**Minutes**

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by chair Ed Hoffman. Board members and guests introduced themselves.

**Minutes**

Minutes of the July meeting were read. The following corrections were made to the PEG channel lineup: Channel 13 is a Public Access Channel, Channel 21 is not a PEG channel. Minutes were approved as corrected.

**Old Business**

***Expanding Board Duties***

Huggenberger led a discussion of expanding the board's duties. Generally the thought would be to make the board a telecommunications board instead of a cable advisory board. He is talking to Jonathan Cook at the current time. The Cable Advisory Board would be dissolved, and the current board members would become the initial members of the telecommunications board. The Mayor can ask the board to take on other opportunities. Agenda would be related to local issues; there are a whole host of things going on. If this happens we have a lot of directions we could go. Hoffman said that it's almost like expanding our duties. Huggenberger said that we might find it necessary to go back to monthly meetings since there are so many things going on. Hoffman said that if additional meetings were needed, he wouldn't have a problem with that.

Gonzolas asked if the ordinance change would also necessitate a change in the bylaws; Huggenberger said yes. Current bylaws would no longer be in effect.

There may be people who might be interested in joining a board with expanded duties; there may also be others who might not want to join such a board. (Troutman and Barnett commented that they might think about stepping down; Hoffman said that Art Zygielbaum might think about joining.)

Hoffman said that the fiber-optic conduit that is being planned is a big deal. Neal said that it does seem like a natural progression.

John Neal moved that the board approving moving forward with expanding the CAB into a telecommunications board. Motion passed 7-0.

***Member Orientation***

Not going to happen now, pending discussion about the board's duties. Huggenberger said that it might be beneficial to the board for Huggenberger to discuss the issues involved with telecommunication. If people have ideas of who might be good fits for a telecommunication board, let Gonzolas know.

***Review of Bylaws***

We will start with existing bylaws and modify as needed.

***Update on move of PEG access channels to digital format***

Hoffman wanted to discuss the move of the PEG channels to digital format. He asked with regard to boxes, can they pick up at the office; Teget said yes. Hoffman asked if there is anything that is being done to track how many viewers the PEG channels have; Teget said no.

Troutman asked if for the record, we could document what happened as a result of the recommendation that was forwarded to the Mayor. Gonzolas said that Hoffman authored a letter to the Mayor. Chief of Staff Rick Hoppe worked with Ann Teget. Teget said that she and Hoppe had met two or three times. The letter was released to the public before TWC talked to Hoppe. She thinks that this was unfortunate because the news stories contained inaccuracies.

Teget and Hoppe met, Hoppe said here's the recommendations of the board, Teget took it back to TWC; whatever they did in Lincoln they would have had to do it at other locations. They assured the Mayor that they had some of the same concerns. Their technicians have the authority to waive the fees. Those customers who attempted to do an install had no fees.

Neal asked if all TWC policies are uniform nationwide. Teget said that most policies are. They were confident that they could work through those issues on a case by case basis with customers.

Teget says that she thinks that the particular customer who complained became frustrated with the process.

Troutman: What kind of volume have they looked at. Teget said about 1000 households. Teget says that we have a high penetration of digital users.

Beau Wolfe commented that the signal quality is much better.

Gonzolas said that their staff is concerned that people may just not have taken the time to do it. The City may send out a press release before the deadline for ordering the boxes.

Hoffman: Discussion of McAllen, Texas. Weren't they given some benefits? Teget said yes, but that was an early conversion and the digital adaptors weren't available. Hoffman said that he hears all the time that people don't like the idea of the 99 cent charge. Wants to know what it's for; thinks it doesn't seem like enough of a charge that it would make a difference to make it worthwhile to TWC. Teget said that discussion has already taken place. She thinks eighteen months' notice of the charge is plenty of notice.

Egglund asked how much does the boxes cost. Teget said she is not sure, but she thinks that the fees will not be anywhere near the cost.

Hoffman: Wants to know how many complaints there have been. Teget said that number is unavailable; if people call in with an issue they fix the issue, then close the work order. Neal asked if it is possible to track those issues, within the text of the contact. Teget asked what that information would be used for. Neal said that when we receive questions about this, we tell them to call TWC. It would help us know that we might have to reconfigure our communication band. Teget is guessing that the information is not tracked but she will check.

Regarding the release of the letter, Huggenberger said that City policy is that if a reporter asks for a copy of a letter, they get it right away. Troutman understands that, but wonders if there was a concerted effort to let the press know. Teget thinks that if the goal is to negotiate a resolution it's better to do it with the Mayor, with the board as a go-between. Teget said that this went to the highest levels of TWC, not just her talking lightly to her boss.

## **TWC Report**

Teget distributed Jamie Wenz's Public Access Coordinator report. Teget reported that we've been fortunate to have an agreement with LPS to do their high school football games. That has been a great addition to their local programming. This has helped Channel 13. Neal said they can be rebroadcast up to 6 months. Neal said that there has been great feedback. Neal said that there had been a couple of years where they were unable to come to an agreement on who would be liable if a camera dropped on someone or something. Hoffman thinks this could be something we could put on the website. Gonzolas said that Luxford had initially had problems from people who thought there might be lower attendance at games. Neal said that this isn't a problem. Huggenberger asked Neal and Teget about the contract between LPS and Community Access. Huggenberger thinks that the schools aren't supposed to be putting things on Educational Access (Channel 80).

Teget mentioned that they're going to be launching their intelligent home home security next month.

## **Report from the City**

Gonzolas said that Bill Luxford is very ill, resigning his position soon. The City is working on hiring a replacement. There have been some great applicants. Hoffman asked how long Bill has been here; Gonzolas thought it was since 1986.

Johnson moved that we prepare a recognition thanking Bill Luxford for everything he has done. Eggland seconded.

**Date for next meeting**

Next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2014, 4:00 p.m. in the City-County Building

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Johnson, secretary