

Cable TV Advisory Board Status and Plans

July 29, 2008

The Cable TV Advisory Board has worked to improve our interaction with Time Warner and has set four study goals for the current year.

Planning discussions were held by the Board Chair with TWC's CEO, Beth Scarborough (along with Assistant City Attorney Steve Huggenburger) and with Ann Shrewsbury. We agreed that maintaining open communications and a good working relationship were in our mutual interest. Although Time Warner expressed reservations about one of our proposed study areas (Competitiveness), they indicated that they would not oppose it. They will cooperate in each area and we agreed to keep them informed on our progress.

Four study areas were developed by the Board. A committee was formed for each area. The four are:

- **Competitiveness.** We have begun to look at the possibilities and problems related to having one or more additional cable companies in Lincoln. We will also look at emerging technologies and alternative infrastructures and consider their impact as competition.
- **Public, Educational, and Government Access Channels.** This study focuses on whether PEG channels are well utilized, reaching a significant audience, and appropriately organized. We will also consider the opportunities for bringing in additional users, such as local colleges.
- **Complaints Reporting.** We will work with the city to provide an online complaint form, to notify citizens about their rights – through the now approved Subscribers Bill of Rights, and to provide a database about complaints and their resolution (protecting the privacy of citizens, of course).
- **Digital Conversion.** On February 19, 2009, broadcast television will fully convert to digital. While cable companies are not required to convert, there will be pressure to go all-digital. This committee will work with TWC to understand their plans and to work with them to assure that any possible conversion is appropriately presented and orchestrated (to avoid a Navigator-like controversy).

The Board expects that reports will be written within a year for all four areas. We hope to implement the Complaints Reporting web site within the year.

Respectfully submitted July 29, 2008,

Arthur I. Zygielbaum
Chair
Cable TV Advisory Board