

CITY OF LINCOLN
Cable TV Advisory Board Minutes
July 23, 2009

Members Present: Barb Bartle, Donna Behlen, Mary Herres, Jerrod Jaeger Barbara Bartle, Jerrod Jaeger, Jim Johnson, Stuart Long, Jon Rehm, Art Zygielbaum

Members Absent: Herb Friedman (excused), Laurie Lee (excused), Jon Rehm (excused), Herb Schimek (unexcused).

City Staff: Steve Huggenberger, Diane Gonzolas

Representatives of Time Warner: Ann Shrewsbury, Jamie Wenz, Brandy Johnson

Meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by chair Art Zygielbaum. Minutes from the April meeting were read. Long moved approval, Bartle seconded, motion passed 7-0.

ACCESS CHANNELS SUBCOMMITTEE

Committee has not met since last board meeting. Zygielbaum asked Ann Shrewsbury how much the access channels are used. Shrewsbury said that Jamie Wenz passed out a report on usage of both Channel 13 (LCC-TV) and Channel 80/99 (the public access channel). Wenz said that a lot of people have gone through training since the move to the new studio, however he thinks a number of the trainees don't move on to produce shows.

Zygielbaum asked if there is anything on the website that talks about the PEG channels; he thinks we should recruit users. J. Johnson said that he thinks it's probably more the responsibility of the board to recruit access producers, rather than Time Warner Cable or the City. Herres suggested that we could look at putting ongoing announcements about production training dates in the *Neighborhood Extra*. Gonzolas and Wenz will discuss some type of press release. Zygielbaum thought we should also look into doing some kind of video production on the topic.

Time Warner Cable and the City are wanting the committee and the board to consider some rules changes. Gonzolas said that Bill Luxford will have the City's proposed rules changes ready by September 1.

Regarding Channel 10, Gonzolas is working with Huggenberger on what to do with that channel. The City's budget will not go into effect until September 1. Channel 10 will still exist as a City channel, but the format is being looked at. Jaeger said he's not sure that the committee would have time to look at it before September. Gonzolas said that technically it's a government channel now, so there is a question about whether non-profits could run anything on that channel. Huggenberger said that there is a prohibition in the franchise agreement against running anything that would be in competition with Time Warner Cable; however there have always been PSAs for non-profits. There is an issue of staff time; Connie Guillaume's hours for the Citizen Information Center have been cut by 10 hours per week. Bill Luxford's salary comes from several specialized funds.

Gonzolas said that one option would be to split Channel 10 up and air arts shows in the morning, crime prevention shows in the afternoon. She said that we have a couple of months to decide; perhaps the Access Committee could meet with a recommendation, forward to the full board and have it forwarded to the Mayor.

Long asked if we're still going to run the bulletin board while new formats are being considered. Gonzolas said that's one

option, but it would probably not be a 24 hour run like Channel 10 does now. Long commented that because of one person's salary cut we're cutting back on Channel 10. Gonzolas said that the longer term goal is to make the channel more useful. Huggenberger said that nothing in the access rules requires the City to sponsor a bulletin board.

Behlen said that we could try pulling it off that format for a week and see if there were any complaints; Zygielbaum said that was a good idea. Long said that it would be preferable to just cut it all at once if we're going to cut it, rather than cut it for a week. Herres asked about KZUM; she thinks they might have money available to put into the station since it plays their music.

Jaeger said that we should put any ideas for the channel into writing. Zygielbaum said that he would be interested in knowing from users how much they use it. Gonzolas said that when she worked with Channels 10/11, she worked on a community bulletin board; it's a lot of work.

Ideas should be sent to Jerrod Jaeger or Diane Gonzolas.

Long reminded the board that the City had just spent a lot of money on character generation equipment, at our request.

REPORTS FROM TIME WARNER CABLE

Shrewsbury reported that the franchise has hired a new General Manager to replace Beth Scarborough, who retired earlier this year. New GM is coming here from Denver.

Shrewsbury reported that TWC has added 10 or 12 new channels in May or June, and will be adding another 8 or 10 in July and August. She said that all but four of their HD channels are free to digital subscribers.

ADJOURNMENT

Behlen moved adjournment, Jaeger seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for October 22, 2009 at the City-County Building, room TBA.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Johnson, secretary