

CITY OF LINCOLN
Cable TV Advisory Board Minutes
OCTOBER 28, 2010

Members Present: Herb Friedman, Mary Herres, Ed Hoffman, Jerrod Jaeger, Jim Johnson, Laurie Lee, Andy Pollock, Jon Rehm, Don Voges, Art Zygielbaum

Members Absent: Donna Behlen (excused).

City Staff: Steve Huggenberger, Diane Gonzolas

Representatives of Time Warner: Brandy Johnson

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by chair Art Zygielbaum.

Minutes from the April 2010 meeting were read. Jaeger moved approval, Herres seconded, minutes approved as read.

OLD BUSINESS

Status of PEG Channels

We had a discussion of the PEG channels. Gonzolas said that there are changes needed to the rules for the channel, but staff time is needed to prepare them and they haven't had enough time to complete work on those yet. In response to a question, she said that the rules for public access are controlled by Time Warner Cable, while the rules for the City PEG channels are controlled by the City. She suggested that the Cable Advisory Board might look at setting up a subcommittee to figure out what to do with cable Channel 10, or it might be interesting for the full board to look at some options. Hoffman asked for information about Channel 10; Gonzolas gave a brief history.

Zygielbaum suggested that we might look at putting some kind of a video blog on the channel.

Gonzolas said that KZUM has been partnering with the channel for awhile; it's been suggested that we could air some KZUM interviews on Channel 10. She said that it's also been suggested that we could do some programming in languages other than English.

Hoffman said that the board might want to take a look at the rules.

In response to a question about how the channel came to exist, Huggenberger said that the federal government allows cities to mandate that franchisees allow airing of government programs.

We discussed allowing underwriters, similar to what PBS does for some of their shows.

Gonzolas said that for a future meeting the staff will try to get together a list of proposed rule changes for channels 5 and 21; possibly also channel 10. City is keeping options open for channel 10 right now but she would appreciate any input that we can give.

Zygielbaum asked for volunteers for a subcommittee to discuss channel 10, and appointed Andy Pollock, Ed Hoffman, Herb Friedman, and Art Zygielbaum to the subcommittee.

Jaeger commented that his experience is that you need an authority figure to get things done. Gonzolas said that Bill Luxford from the City's TV studio would be involved. Friedman suggested that you could put a request for input on PEG channels. Gonzolas said that she would like to target groups of citizens.

Hoffman asked if UNL has a group of people that work with the access channels; Gonzolas said yes; Luxford has worked with people from the University. She said that there were several UNL students who worked on programming about the Special Olympics in July. Voges asked if LPS has video in their curriculum; Gonzolas said yes.

NEW BUSINESS None.

REPORTS FROM THE CITY

Gonzolas distributed her report. She said that educational institutions are stepping up more on programming for Channel 21 than they have sometimes in the past.

REPORTS FROM TIME WARNER CABLE

Brandy Johnson distributed copies of the access channel report which had been prepared by Jamie Wenz, TWC access coordinator.

Zygielbaum asked Johnson about a complaint that he had forwarded to TWC from Doug Pfeiffer; he wondered if it had been resolved. Johnson said that she would check.

Johnson said that their corporate structure had changed again; the TWC Lincoln office is now headed by a person named Scott Miller, who works out of Kansas City but is responsible for both Kansas City and Lincoln.

She said that the "Connect a Million Minds" program for school students was very successful. She thanked board members who were able to attend the presentation about the program earlier in the year, and particular thanks to Zygielbaum for working with them on a Public Service Announcement about the program.

Johnson said that this past Monday, the TWC corporate office had announced that at an upcoming November 17 town hall meeting, hosted by Al Gore, one of our Lincoln "Connect a Million Minds" students, Mary Pinnell, has been invited to ask a question.

She said that TWC now offers a "Remote DVD Manager" which lets subscribers program their DVD via the Internet.

She announced that several sports networks are now available on TWC — the Big Ten Network, ESPN Goal Line, and ESPN3.com. They have also launched "Metro Sports," a channel managed by TWC that is run from Kansas City but open to Nebraska programming as well. They have aired a Crete vs Pius football game, as well as live pregame shows before some of the Husker games.

They're offering "Whole House on Demand" service, where you can switch from a DVR in one room to another in a different room during a program.

Regarding the highly publicized dispute with KLKN-TV, Johnson passed on a message from Ann Shrewsbury that TWC had tried to keep the Cable Advisory Board informed on the status of negotiations.

Hoffman asked how subscribers would know that they can call the City if they have complaints about service. Gonzolas said that often people call the Mayor's office, or sometimes they call the Better Business Bureau.

Adjournment

Friedman moved adjournment, Hoffman seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for January 27 at the City County Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Johnson, secretary