

MINUTES OF CABLE TV COMMISSION MEETING
December 5, 2012
CITY HALL ANNEX – 1st FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM #1

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alan Vincent (chair), Jennifer Tigges (vice-chair), Pauline Maloney, Kevin Stevens, Sr. Carol Hoverman, Kathy McMullen, Ron Tigges.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Craig Nowack, City of Dubuque
Craig Schaefer, Dubuque Community Schools
Dale Lass, Eleanor Roosevelt Middle School
Laura Stanner, Eleanor Roosevelt Middle School
Mike Willis, University of Dubuque
Nathan Ripperberger, University of Dubuque
Jim Barefoot, Mediacom

Vincent called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Acceptance of the Agenda

Upon a motion by Hoverman, seconded by Stevens, the agenda was accepted 7 - 0.

Approval of the Minutes of November 7, 2012

Upon a motion by Maloney, seconded by McMullen, the Minutes were approved 7 - 0.

Public Notice

There was no public input.

Access Equipment & Facilities

Nowack presented a request on behalf of the local access community to procure a spare Cablecast server to have on hand to temporarily replace one of the four existing Cablecast servers (in use at each access channel origination site in the city) that might need to go back to Tighthouse for service. As part of the grant request, Mediacom would get a brand new SX4 server and Carousel computer both with gold assurance, the School District would get a RAID-enabled SX2 server with gold assurance, and each channel origination site would get a spare, hot-swappable drive to have in house in case of a drive failure. The current School District server, new this summer, would become the spare server. With a spare server, the extended channel down time recently experienced at the School District and Mediacom should be greatly reduced, if not eliminated.

Hoverman moved to approve up to \$50,000 to purchase the requested equipment. The motion was seconded by Maloney and approved 7 – 0.

PEG Grant Agreements

Nowack informed the Commission that the letters asking for programming results from PEG grant recipients went out after the last meeting and the Commission has the responses. RTigges and Vincent remarked that it's not the Commission's role to dictate what the recipients' content is, just that the equipment is being utilized as agreed to produce programming air on the PEG channels.

Mr. Willis and Mr. Ripperberger thanked the Commission on behalf of the University of Dubuque for providing the HD camera and computer editing equipment. They provided a list of some of the UD events that they recorded and which have aired on the shared educational channel.

Mr. Lass and Ms. Stanner showed a DVD of some of the events and student productions at Roosevelt Middle School. To the best of their knowledge, none of these programs aired on the School District channel. He stressed the need for a public school to be public, and the value of the learning experience the students go through with hands-on production experience. Ms. Stanner discussed the projects she works on with the students and the deteriorating condition of some of the equipment. At the request of JTigges, she explained R-TV, Roosevelt's morning video announcements.

Vincent said he appreciated the two groups that came in today and would like to learn from some of the other grant recipients what their programming plans are. He suggested that they be invited to future meetings. Hoverman noted that the head of Holy Family Catholic Schools is new to the job, and if she lives outside the city and doesn't have cable, she may not know about our access community.

A discussion followed about how Dubuque Community Schools selects material to appear on its channel. Vincent was worried that the Commission would fund equipment for projects the district has no interest in airing. McMullen suggested the Commission look into the District's policy for getting material on the channel. RTigges moved that the Commission find out what the Dubuque Community Schools' policy is for deciding what school-generated programming goes on the air. The motion was seconded by McMullen and approved 7 – 0. Nowack said he would try to get Mike Cyze and perhaps Craig Schaefer to come discuss this at the January 2 meeting.

PEG Channel Re-Location

Due to no new information from Mediacom, this item was tabled to a future meeting.

Disposing of Old Equipment

This item was tabled until a future meeting per the request of Barefoot.

Mediacom Cable Report

Barefoot reported one additional problem with his playback server since the last meeting, but it has since been resolved. He also said that Maloney had some in and produced the first HD show in the Mediacom studio.

Cable TV Report

Nowack updated the Commission on programming in production. He reminded the Commission that they are invited to attend the Cable TV budget hearing before the City Council which will be on February 27, 2013, the last night of hearings.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by JTigges, seconded by Hoverman, the meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.