

MINUTES OF CABLE TV COMMISSION MEETING
June 7, 2017
CITY HALL ANNEX – 1st FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM #1

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sr. Carol Hoverman (Chair), Jennifer Tigges, Pauline Maloney, Ron Tigges, Alan Vincent, Kathy McMullen.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Dolson (Vice-Chair).

OTHERS PRESENT: Craig Nowack, City of Dubuque
Nathan Ripperger, University of Dubuque

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

Acceptance of the Agenda

Upon a motion by Vincent, seconded by Maloney, the agenda was approved 6 - 0.

Approval of the Minutes of May 3, 2017

Upon a motion by JTigges, seconded by RTigges, minutes of the May 3, 2017, meeting were approved 5 – 0, with Vincent abstaining.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Grant Letter Responses

Nowack noted that the University of Dubuque provided several programs to the shared education channel in response to the letter it received, along with an explanation for their lack of programming in calendar year 2016. Mr. Ripperger from UD was present and further clarified that they had been utilizing a shared Google Drive with Loras College that notified a Loras employee who is no longer there. The Commission expressed appreciation for the explanation and requested Nowack to send UD a letter confirming that the problem has been rectified.

PEG Grant Programming Obligations

Nowack informed the Commission that this item appears at the request of Craig Schaefer at Loras College who feels having a definite endpoint of the programming obligations that come with acceptance of a PEG grant would be helpful to local recipients. Nowack reminded Commissioners that grant recipients typically are required to produce 30 minutes of programming per quarter, but the agreements provide no endpoint for this obligation. He noted that grants for equipment that do not involve producing programming (such as a graphics bulletin board server or a playback server) do not have programming obligations. Also, entities that receive multiple grants or large grants may be required to produce more than just 30 minutes per quarter.

The Commission had a lengthy discussion on various aspects of this topic and requested that it stay on the agenda until a formal policy can be drafted.

Mediacom Cable Report

No one from Mediacom was present to report.

Cable TV Report

Nowack informed the Commission of various planned productions and said that they are now fully using the new storage server. He also said that they are working on finalizing the agreement to move forward with the consultant overseeing drone certification and training.

JTigges asked if there was an update on Mr. Barefoot's health. McMullen said he had been moved to a facility in Ankeny for additional rehabilitation. Hoverman wondered if there was anyone else at Mediacom taking over Barefoot's duties to run the public access channel. McMullen offered to call there to find out.

This sparked a discussion regarding the future of the public access channel in Dubuque. Nowack noted that it's now been about two months since Barefoot has been absent due to illness, and in that time no programming has been running and to date he has not received any phone calls complaining about this. Nowack reminded the Commission that under the state franchise law Mediacom is not obligated to operate the public access channel. JTigges wondered if the City had to provide a public access channel, or if one of the other channels could air material designated for public access. Nowack said he was not aware of any obligation on the City to provide a public access channel, nor could he speak to the willingness of Loras College and the school district to take over those duties.

Hoverman stated that the Telegraph-Herald was now including the cable access channels in the channel guide of their Friday TV supplement. She noted that the Commission requested Nowack to request this in a letter some time ago, and she asked him to send another letter thanking them for doing it.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Maloney, seconded by RTigges, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.