

MINUTES OF CABLE TV COMMISSION MEETING
May 1, 2019
LORAS COLLEGE – HOFFMANN HALL/ROOM 236FN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jennifer Tigges (Chair), Ron Tigges (Vice-Chair), Pauline Maloney, Rick Baumhover, Sr. Carol Hoverman.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kathy McMullen, Alan Vincent.

OTHERS PRESENT: Craig Nowack, City of Dubuque
Craig Schaefer, Loras College
Jill Specht, Loras College
Jeff Dyer, Sageville School

JTigges called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Acceptance of the Agenda

Upon a motion by Hoverman, seconded by Maloney, the agenda was accepted by a motion of 4-0 (Baumhover abstained as he had not yet taken the oath of office).

Approval of the Minutes of March 6, 2019

Upon a motion by Maloney, seconded by RTigges, minutes of the March 6, 2019, meeting were approved 3 – 0 (Hoverman and Baumhover abstained).

Oath of Office

JTigges administered the oath of office to Baumhover.

New Commissioner Introduction

Dubuque native Baumhover spent a few minutes introducing himself to the Commission and touched upon his work on the Community Development Advisory Commission and Housing Commission, his time spent living in Dallas, and his desire to give back to the community. In the interest of time, JTigges suggested that the other commissioners introduce themselves to Baumhover at the next meeting.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Funding Requests

Dyer presented a request for a new editing computer and some green screen equipment for his productions at Sageville School. He must retire his current editing computer per school district policy. Nowack noted that his quote for the new computer is dated September 2018 and was concerned that when it came time to order the new computer, that price might not be valid. RTigges moved to approve up to \$4500 for the funding request to cover modest price increases. The motion was seconded by Baumhover and approved 5 – 0.

Nowack presented a request for \$5775 for software that will insert closed captions into the video files that air on CityChannel Dubuque. He reminded the Commission that his improvement package request for captioning programs has been approved for Fiscal Year 2020 which begins on July 1. He informed the Commissioners that Cable TV had downloaded the demo version of this software earlier in the day to make sure it will do what it needs to do. Test captioning worked on their Sony TV with a Mediacom cable box, but the same set would not show the captions without the cable box. A Sharp brand set in the Annex did show the captions without a cable box. Hoverman moved to approve up to \$6000 for the request. The motion was seconded by Baumhover and approved 5 – 0.

Council Goal Setting Worksheets

The Commission discussed their responses for the worksheets, looking at what they submitted a year ago and what they might want to submit in light of the end of revenue for the PEG fund next year and the general decline of access television. RTigges moved to keep item 1 on the “Successes” worksheet from last year after modifying it to reflect what was funded in FY2019. Included in his motion was keeping items 1 and 2 on the “Initiatives” worksheet and adding a third item to read, “Explore avenues to continue to be a community resource as the Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) access world changes.” The motion was seconded by Baumhover and approved 5 – 0.

Mediacom Cable Report

No one from Mediacom was present to give a report.

Cable TV Report

Nowack informed the Commission that their meetings will move to the Jule Operations & Training Center starting next month because the City’s Economic Development Department was moving to the Annex and taking over Conference Rooms 1 and 3. He also mentioned that in the near future, possibly early next year, Mediacom will no longer loan out access equipment to local users. He reminded the Commission that with Mediacom’s converting their municipal franchise to a state franchise in 2009, they were no longer obligated to host public access facilities. Nowack also said that the first Southwest Arterial construction update of the new construction season premiered yesterday, and that the City is now streaming City Council meetings to Facebook Live.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Maloney, seconded by Hoverman, the meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.