

IOWA CITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION **DRAFT**
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2010--5:30 P.M.
CITY CABLE TV OFFICE, 10 S. LINN ST.-TOWER PLACE PARKING FACILITY

MEMBERS PRESENT: Laura Bergus, Hans Hoerschelman, Saul Mekies

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Hagen, Robert Kemp

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Brau, Bob Hardy

OTHERS PRESENT: Josh Goding, Beth Fisher, Kevin Hoyland, Susan Rogusky,
Michael McBride, Lee Grassley, David Scrivner, Greg Otten,
Michelle Morgan

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL

None at this time.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Hardy reported that a board has been formed to assist the school channel with programming. The board's first meeting had representatives of each of the access channels, a teacher, and Hoerschelman. Hoerschelman said Senior Center Television well serve as a model. The board discussed sharing equipment for use by the school district, developing some training programs, internships, and intergenerational mentoring programs such as SCTV's. It is hoped a centralized location can be found for teachers or others who wanted to have a production done by the new production organization. Equality of productions among schools was also discussed. The guidelines for the channel will need to be addressed to provide legal protection and a balance of discussion of issues within the school district. A timeline and clarification of goals will be addressed at the next meeting. Ty Coleman will serve as the main coordinator for the board. Hardy said that it is hoped that over the long term each of the district's schools will develop a group of people who can be trained and produce programs for the channel. Grassley reported Mediacom and Sinclair reached a one-year retransmission consent agreement. The agreement was for only one year because Sinclair would not agree to a longer term. Sinclair believes the landscape of retransmission agreements will be undergoing significant change in the near future. Mediacom had a catastrophic email problem in December resulting from spammers attacking their new servers at a rate much larger than anticipated. Mediacom's email servers usually get 2 million spam messages a day and had planned for 8 million after the conversion to new servers. They received 17 million in 12 hours resulting in a crash of the system. The 50-megabit Internet service is available but not yet promoted. Goding reported PATV was closed for 2 weeks for building maintenance due to an ice dam causing a roof leak and wet walls. PATV will reopen Feb. 27

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bergus moved and Mekies seconded a motion to approve the January 25, 2009 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS

Mekies said he would have to leave early as he is filling in and teaching a class at the University of Iowa. Hoerschelman said he has submitted an application to be reappointed to the Commission when his term expires.

SHORT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ICCSA PROGRAMMING SUPPORT

Hardy reported that a board has been formed to assist the school channel with programming. The board's first meeting had representatives from each of the access channels, a teacher, and Hoerschelman. Hoerschelman said Senior Center Television will serve as a model. The board discussed sharing equipment for use by the school district, developing some training programs, internships, and intergenerational mentoring programs such as SCTV's. It is hoped a centralized location can be found for teachers or others who wanted to have a production done by the new production organization. Equality of productions among schools was also discussed. The guidelines for the channel will need to be addressed to provide legal protection and a balance of discussion of issues within the school district. A timeline and clarification of goals will be addressed at the next meeting. Ty Coleman will serve as the main coordinator for the board. Hardy said that it is hoped that over the long term each of the district's schools will develop a group of people who can be trained and produce programs for the channel.

CONSUMER ISSUES

Hardy referred to the complaint report in the meeting packet and noted the number of complaints were down. All the complaints have been resolved. Hardy reviewed the City's proposed policy on naming of buildings.

MEDIACOM REPORT

Grassley reported Mediacom and Sinclair reached a one-year retransmission consent agreement. The agreement was for only one year because Sinclair would not agree to a longer term. Sinclair believes the landscape of retransmission agreements will be undergoing significant change in the near future. Mediacom had a catastrophic email problem in December resulting from spammers attacking their new servers at a rate much larger than anticipated. Mediacom's email servers usually get 2 million spam messages a day and had planned for 8 million after the conversion to new servers. They received 17 million in 12 hours resulting in a crash of the system. Mediacom's phone service will move in house. Previously they had partnered with Sprint. The 50-megabit Internet service is available but not yet promoted. Grassley requested that if the Commission has suggestions for people to appear on Mediacom's "News Leaders" program they

should forward their name to him. Hoerschelman asked about the subscription rate for 50-megabit Internet service. Grassley said the service is available and is being tested but it hasn't been marketed, as Mediacom wants to make sure it is stable.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA REPORT

McBride reported the dance marathon was covered with 3 cameras, live for the full 24 hours. The University of Iowa Symphony was also recorded. The Haiti benefit at the Englert will be recorded this evening.

KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Kirkwood provided a written report.

PATV REPORT

Goding reported PATV was closed for 2 weeks for building maintenance due to an ice dam causing a roof leak and wet walls. PATV will reopen Feb. 27. Work on community programming was able to continue. Program playback was uninterrupted except for those programs that do studio shoots. The next board meeting will be March 18 at 7 p.m. PATV will be encouraging and assisting producers to submit programs to the Hometown Video Festival sponsored by the Alliance for Community Media. The Live and Local program will be producing a promotion for the Renaissance Festival and 2 animal groups. The Prairie Lights program is now being produced 3-4 times per month. Programs in production include the Icky Awards, the next episode of the Smartest Iowa, a program for New Pioneer classes, and a weekly news programs for persons with disabilities from Uptown Bill's. The next guidelines workshop will be March 7 at 2:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned due to a loss of quorum. The meeting was adjourned at 6:03

Michael Brau
Cable TV Administrative Aide